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U.S. SAID PLANNING 'FAILURE' OF GENEVA TALKS

AU181420 Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian 17 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by Edgar Cheporov, APN political observer, specially for NARODNA MLADEZH entitled: "NATO With False Arguments. Deployment of New Intermediate-Range Missiles Is Proceeding Apace"]

[Text] AFP recently quoted the following statement by a NATO representative in Brussels: "We will not make any official announcements on the deployment of the first missiles ("Pershing II and cruise" -- editorial notice) until the deployment in their bases is completed in December 1983. We can say, however, that the deployment of the missiles, the preparation of their bases, and the training of the personnel is already in progress." At approximately the same time, THE WASHINGTON POST, using the statement of a prominent Pentagon employee has quoted that "for several weeks now four European NATO member-countries have been conducting negotiations to accelerate the process of preparing for combat capability the missiles expected to be deployed in Europe."

In this way it was openly declared to the public that the deployment of the Pershing and cruise missiles had begun. And this is happening regardless of Washington's optimistic hints about the possibility of reaching agreement in Geneva. It seems to me that there are two reasons for the U.S. frankness. First, the United States is trying to convince the participants in the antiwar movement that the process of deploying the missiles is already an irreversible one and second, the arms race proponents are simply no longer in a position to conceal the process of the deployment of the missiles which has already begun.

Such an action can in fact hardly be concealed from the public. During the World Assembly in Prague "For Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War," I had the opportunity to meet delegates from Greenham Common (Great Britain), Comiso (Italy) and New Ulm (FRG). In the Greenham Common military base, they said, the shelters for the launching facilities of the new U.S. missiles are already built and a contingent of U.S. forces for special assignment has arrived. Hundreds of U.S. Air Force personnel are also in Comiso where assembly work at the launching sites is progressing. The same preparations also are in progress in the FRG. U.S. specialists and components for the missile system are expected to arrive there in October while 18 Pershing II missiles with nuclear warheads will be transferred there from across the Atlantic.

Is it not clear enough that from the very beginning the United States has been planning the failure of the Geneva talks? From the very beginning Washington pursued a course that would make them pointless -- parallel with the discussions on eliminating the missile threat the preparations for deployment of new-type nuclear weapons were in progress -- in other words Washington aimed not at eliminating the threat but at intensifying it. In their desire to justify their actions somehow the U.S. leaders, including President Reagan, have recently launched the idea that an agreement between the USSR and the United States could be "more easily" reached if the NATO arsenal were supplied with the latest nuclear weapons.

In their view such missile positions will help the United States to strengthen its stand at the talks and this is because Moscow understands only one language -- "the language of strength." Such illusions are in vain! The United States actually has nothing to gain at all from acting in such a way.

"A realization of the NATO plan will bring no concessions on the part of Moscow and no relaxation in our defense, but we will adopt prompt and effective countermeasures to protect the security of the USSR and of its allies," said Yuriy Andropov in his talks with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The USSR cannot but be concerned over the fact that the United States is striving for military supremacy. The realization of these plans not only increases the danger for the USSR and the other socialist countires, but it also increases the danger for the West European countries. That is why there is a powerful antiwar wave there. Greenham Common in Britain, Comiso in Italy and Bitburg and Neu Ulm in the FRG are now becoming the "hot spots" in the world. Thousands of peace proponents are demonstrating their unwillingness to become "nuclear hostages." Neither they nor the millions of people in the world are affected by the U.S. arguments that "peace can be strengthened through rearmament," and that the United States is defending peace against "the Soviet threat."

That is actually the reason why the entire Soviet policy and all of its practical steps are evidence of our great desire to preserve peace and detente. The Soviet Union has declared many times that it is not making any preparations to attack anybody, but is making numerous specific proposals which rule out war as a means of resolving international disputes, including proposals on the signing of a nonaggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact member countries. The unilateral obligation of the Soviet Union not to be first to use any nuclear weapons, is also indicative in this respect.

Aiming at fully eliminating nuclear weapons from Europe, the socialist countries consider it as urgent to reach an agreement which will rule out the deployment of the latest U.S. nuclear missiles in the West European countries, will provide for a reduction of the intermediate-range missiles existing in Europe, and will ensure a balance at the lowest possible level. Only such an approach to the future of Europe -- not the striving for deployment of the latest nuclear missiles -- can secure the peace.

BERLINGUER CRITICISM OF U.S. INF POSITION CITED

LD111115 Moscow TASS in English 1045 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Rome August 11 TASS -- The Reagan administration is not conducting serious talks on medium range nuclear arms reductions in Europe and intends to secure by all means the deployment of new medium range nuclear missiles in Western Europe, Enrico Berlinguer, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, has stated during a debate in the Chamber of Deputies of the parliament on the governmental programme of the newly formed cabinet.

He stressed that the proposal of Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on cutbacks in the strength of the Soviet SS-20 missile force to the number of missiles possessed by Britain and France and also the proposal on establishing equal levels in nuclear capability planes between the NATO countries and the members of the Warsaw Treaty organization constituted a good basis for another round of the talks. The higher the armaments level, the lesser security for Italy and Europe, the shakier the world balance of forces and the graver the threat to world peace, Enrico Berlinguer said.

U.S. SENATORS MEET ANDROPOV, CONTINUE VISIT

Andropov Discusses Arms Talks

PM181806 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 83 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Reception of American Senators by Yu.V. Andropov"]

[Text] Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on 18 August received in the Kremlin the U.S. Senators Claiborne Pell, Russell Long, Paul Sarbanes, Dale Bumpers, Patrick Leahy, James Sasser, Donald Riegle, Howard Metzenbaum and Dennis DeConcini, who have arrived in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR.

Talking with them, Yuriy Andropov has characterised the present-day state of relations between the USSR and the United States as tense virtually in every field. They have become such not because the Soviet side has chosen so. The Soviet Union would like to have with the United States a level of concord ensuring normal, stable and good relations in the mutual interests of both sides and to the great benefit of world peace.

If, nonetheless, someone hopes to attain superiority over the USSR amidst tensions, in a "game without rules," this is a dangerous miscalculation.

Dwelling upon the issue of nuclear arms in Europe, Yuriy Andropov emphasized that very much including the future development of Soviet-U.S. relations, depended on whether a mutually acceptable solution of that issue would be found at the Geneva negotiations, whether it would be possible to stop a lethally dangerous new round of the arms race in that region. The stationing of U.S. Pershings and cruise missiles in Europe will have far-reaching consequences which will inevitably affect the United States as well. The Americans will also feel the difference between the situation which existed before the deployment and which will take shape after it.

Summing up the essence of a number of constructive proposals put forward by the Soviet Union at the Geneva talks on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe, Yuriy Andropov said that if those proposals were translated into practice, the aggregate number of medium-range nuclear facilities [sredstva] in Europe would be cut by approximately two-thirds both on the Soviet Union's and on NATO's side. Moreover, NATO would only reduce its airborne facilities [aviatsionnyye sredstva] whereas the Soviet Union would also cut back its missiles, including a considerable number of modern SS-20 missiles. As a result, the Soviet Union would be left with considerably fewer missiles and warheads on them than it had in 1976, when no one in the West talked about the Soviet Union's superiority in weaponry of this type.

It was stressed that the success of the Geneva talks on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe was still possible if the United States showed an interest in an honest agreement on an equal basis. However, we do not advise anyone to count on the Soviet Union's unilateral concessions to the prejudice of the interests of its own security.

During the discussion of strategic arms limitation issues, the senators were told that it was absolutely unrealistic to try, as the U.S. Administration was doing, to convince or compel the other side to break down the structure of its strategic forces and to reduce their basic components, while keeping for itself a completely free hand. This question, too, can only be resolved on the basis of parity. The lack of such a solution would mean the continued strategic arms race and the escalation of the threat of nuclear war. The USSR is against this.

The senators' attention was also drawn to the Soviet proposal to "freeze" the strategic nuclear arsenals of the Soviet Union and the United States. We suggest, Yuriy Andropov said, that not only the number of the existing missiles should not be raised but that the development and testing of new types and varieties of strategic arms should be renounced and that the modernization of the existing facilities should be limited to the utmost. We agree to a broader option, namely, a freeze on all the components of the nuclear arsenals of the USSR and the USA. This would be an example for other countries. The freeze agreement would immediately halt the dangerous process of the runaway nuclear arms race, thus meeting the dreams of all the peoples. An entirely different political atmosphere would emerge, in which it would be easier to seek agreement on reductions in the stockpiles of such weaponry.

Yuriy Andropov made special emphasis on the issue of exceptional significance, a serious and real threat of the arms race spreading to outer space. Recalling the idea expressed by him earlier concerning the prohibition of the use of force in general both in space and from space with respect to the earth, he set forth new major initiatives of the USSR in that field.

First of all, Yuriy Andropov said, the Soviet Union deems it necessary to come to terms on a complete prohibition of the testing and deployment of any space-based weapons for hitting targets on earth, in the air or in outer space.

Further, the USSR is prepared to solve radically the issue of anti-satellite weapons -- to agree on the elimination of the existing anti-satellite systems and the prohibition of the development of new ones.

During the discussion of other international problems the Soviet side emphasized the inadmissibility of external interference in the domestic affairs of states and of the threat or use of armed force, and pointed to the imperative need to eliminate by peaceful means via a quest for mutually acceptable solutions the existing seats of the tension of conflicts, no matter whether in the Middle East, in Southeast Asia, in Africa or other places.

Yuriy Andropov emphatically advocated a political settlement in Central America as well, positively evaluating the efforts of the Latin American countries which are trying to assist in finding mutually acceptable solutions to the problems of that region. Yuriy Andropov expressed the Soviet Union's full support for the constructive proposals set forth by Nicaragua and Cuba, and settlement principles formulated by them creating a sound foundation for agreement without prejudicing anyone's interests or prestige. The interests of the peoples of Central America, broad interests of international security, Yuriy Andropov said, emphatically demand that everything be done to prevent the situation in that region from getting out of control.

In the course of the conversation the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee told the U.S. senators about the great efforts to translate into practice plans for economic and social construction that are being made by the Soviet people under the leadership of the CPSU.

In conclusion Yuriy Andropov stressed that the USSR considered it to be its major objective in foreign policy to strengthen peace and international security, to ensure a life of peace for the peoples first and foremost by removing the threat of nuclear war. It will continue to act here perseveringly and consistently, displaying readiness for fruitful mutually beneficial cooperation and interaction with all the states, including the CSA.

Yuriy Andropov spoke in favour of the large-scale development of different forms of parliamentary contacts as an important factor of promoting mutual understanding and peace among nations.

He wished the American senators that their visit to the Soviet Union would help them better to understand and sense the way of life and the line of thinking of the Soviet people.

Having expressed thanks for the in-depth and frank presentation of the stand of the Soviet Union on the key issues of relations between the USSR and the United States and on international problems, the senators spoke in favor of improving Soviet-American relations and finding solutions which would remove the risk of the outbreak of nuclear war. They noted the usefulness of exchanges of opinion at different levels in order better to understand each other's positions and to promote mutual trust. The senators stated their views of a number of specific international problems. The conversation was attended by Vitaliy Ruben, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Georgiy Kornienko, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, Andrey Aleksandrov, assistant to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Walter Zimmerman, the U.S. charge d'affaires in the USSR.

Meeting at Supreme Soviet

LD182336 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Aug 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] On 18 August a meeting was held at the USSR Supreme Soviet with a group of U.S. senators led by Pell. On the Soviet side deputies Ruben, Arbatov, Blokhin, Zhukov, Zamyatin, Stukalin, Subbotin, and Chakovskiy and senior officials from a number of ministries and departments took part in the conversation. On the same day the group of U.S. senators visited the Vladimir Ilich Lenin mausoleum. The guests laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall.

Pell Cited on Talks

LD181758 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS -- Notable U.S. politician Claiborne Pell, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has said at a press conference in the Soviet capital today that the meeting with Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in the Kremlin was good and substantive. According to him, the nine U.S. Democratic senators who are visiting in the Soviet Union were very pleased to have got the possibility to converse with Yuriy Andropov, as a result of which there was a frank exchange of opinion during almost two hours. Pell said that Yuriy Andropov had put forward during the conversation another Soviet initiative: The USSR pledges not to be the first to put into outer space any type of anti-satellite weapons, i.e., introduces a unilateral moratorium on the launchings of such weapons, for the entire period during which the other states, including the USA, will refrain from stationing anti-satellite weapons of any type in outer space. The senator stressed that the Soviet proposal was inspiring optimism and should be seriously studied.

Touching upon the possibility of a Soviet-American summit, Claiborne Pell said that the Soviet leader supported that idea but only on the condition that the agenda be thoroughly prepared and that substantive results were likely. According to the U.S. senator, the Soviet side reiterated its strong opposition to the plans to deploy new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe and stressed that the Soviet Union would respond if these plans go ahead.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. TRADE UNION LEADER'S VISIT

LD181252 Moscow TASS in English 1239 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes: The reception of prominent U.S. trade union leader William Winpisinger by Yuriy Andropov is in the spotlight of attention of the international public and press. Summing up the comments reaching here, there is every ground to say that the meeting showed convincingly again the determined striving of the land of soviets for peace, the firm will of the Soviet people to uphold and consolidate detente. At the same time it was stressed during the meeting that the Soviet people always favoured and continue favouring close ties between workers and, in general, between working people of the USSR and the USA. Working people remain working people and they have a lot of interests in common. This common interest at present is above all to uphold peace, to avert new world war.

Peace is a common concern. Automobile builders of Detroit and miners of the Donetsk Basin, Californian farmers and grape growers of the Soviet Republic of Georgia are equally interested in the consolidation of detente, in the ending of the wasteful and extremely dangerous arms race. Metal workers of Pittsburgh and ship builders of Leningrad, machine builders from Los Angeles and dockers of Odessa declare resolutely for saving the world from the devastating flames of nuclear conflagration, for keeping the skies over the world clear. Wherever the working people live and work -- in Moscow and in New York, in Kiev and in Dallas, all of them, however different their political views might be, are striving to prevent nuclear war whose horrible consequences for mankind can hardly be envisioned in full measure.

Soviet people, just as many millions of people in all countries, see the main source of war danger in the unrestrained nuclear arms race intensified by irresponsible aggressive statements and actions in the spirit of the cold war. It would be appropriate to point out in this connection that the U.S. ruling circles have already embarked on the plan of "America's rearming" envisaged for five years, the plan on which over 1,500 billion dollars is intended to be spent. Within five years it is intended to spend on arms manufacture the sum that was spent for this purpose over the two previous decades. Mankind's conscience cannot tolerate the fact that such stockpiles of nuclear weapons, that, if used, could destroy all life on earth, have accumulated on the globe by now.

The insane arms race, militarism, aggressive aspirations of those imperialist circles that would like to view almost the whole world as a "sphere of their vital interests" are the source of the threat that is looming equally over all peoples, including the peoples of the USSR and the USA. "We do not want such developments. We want agreement and reduction of the nuclear arsenals of both sides", Yuriy Andropov said during the conversation with William Winpisinger. "We do not want the arms race either on earth or in space from which a new mortal danger can threaten mankind, if militarism is given a free rein".

The Soviet public received with profound satisfaction W. Winpisinger's statement that the working people of the USA want durable peace and the removal of the threat of nuclear war and that the constant development and widening of contacts between trade unions, between all working people of the USA and the USSR is one of the reliable ways of the strengthening of mutual understanding, of the consolidation of peace. As to the Soviet Union, the Soviet people, we are for broad development of the ties and friendly contacts between the working people of the USSR and the USA, for an overall improvement of relations and peaceful cooperation between our countries.

RESUMPTION OF PRC-USSR AMUR SURVEY URGED

OW181227 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Sergeyev commentary]

[Text] Twenty-seven years ago, or rather, on 18 August 1956, the Soviet Union and the PRC signed an agreement on the joint survey of the Amur River valley. In this connection, Soviet Sinologist Sergeyev points out:

The joint scientific survey by Soviet and Chinese scientists occupied an important place in Soviet-Chinese scientific cooperation in the 1950's. In 1955, there was only one relatively big joint survey team -- a comprehensive zoological-botanical survey team working in southwest China. By 1956, there were four such survey teams working in China including the Amur survey team. The work done by these survey teams noticeably increased in 1957 and 1958. In those years, members of the joint teams surveyed iron ore in Baotou, oil deposits in the Qaidam Basin, the sands of south China and coastal areas along the Yellow Sea. They also jointly drew China's soil maps and observed solar radiation.

Now let us talk about the Amur survey team. Soviet and Chinese scientists made a joint survey of the Amur River valley from 1956 to 1961. According to their survey, they compiled detailed scientific data on the valley and made an optimistic assessment of possible mineral resources in the area. They worked out a draft plan for mediating disputes regarding, and making joint use of, the boundary rivers of the Amur, Argun and Ussuri. The draft plan called for expanded navigation, flood control, water and soil improvement, water supply and the development of fish farming. They also suggested building power plants by making use of water resources in boundary rivers in the Amur River valley.

It should be pointed out that the important result of the joint geological survey, made mainly on China's territory, was the discovery of large deposits of minerals. The final meeting of the joint academic committee on the productive forces in the Amur River valley confirmed the results achieved by the joint survey team. The meeting pointed out: The results of the joint scientific survey and prospecting the Amur River valley were smoothly achieved, thanks to the concerted efforts of Soviet and Chinese scientists and other experts. The late Premier Zhou Enlai of the PRC State Council highly appraised these results. For example, he said: The results of this survey are a great contribution to science and practical work and are conducive to the exploitation of natural resources in that vast area.

The joint survey of the Amur River valley shows that Soviet-Chinese scientific cooperation was very beneficial to both countries. To resume the joint survey of the Amur River valley by Soviet and Chinese scientists would be conducive to further developing the productive forces in that area.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA MARKS KOREAN LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

PM190819 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Aug 83 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed article: "Symbol of Friendship and Fraternity"]

[Text] They stand on Korean soil, the obelisks on which the words of thanks from that country's people to the Soviet servicemen and liberators are inscribed. In the DPRK's major cities -- Pyongyang, Wonsan, and Chongjin -- stand these symbols of the two peoples' friendship. It was 38 years ago, in August 1945, that the Soviet Armed Forces, with their powerful strikes, routed the Japanese Kwantung army and brought freedom to the peoples of China and Korea. The Korean people welcomed their liberators enthusiastically. Addressing a meeting in Pyongyang devoted to the liberation, Kim Il-song stressed: "In the most grim times of Japanese rule we hopefully turned our eyes toward the land of socialism, and this hope came true.... The Soviet Army defeated the Japanese Kwantung army and liberated Korea. We will preserve through the centuries our gratitude to the Soviet Union -- our liberator." Form the first days after the Japanese troops' defeat, the Soviet command did everything possible to set up a normal life for the country's population. Soviet servicemen took an active part in restoring the industrial enterprises destroyed by the Japanese. It was in those years that the traditions of selfless friendship between the two peoples were formed. A letter to the Soviet Army's glorious exploits "will live forever in the monument we have erected in honor of the liberation, in the smoking chimney stacks of the plants and factories restored with the Soviet Union's aid, and in the golden waves of our grain fields."

Today other symbols of Soviet-Korean friendship have arisen alongside the obelisks to the Soviet servicemen. They include the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, the Sup'ung Hydraulic Power Station, the Hungnam Mineral Fertilizer Combine, and the textile combine and automobile battery plant in Pyongyang. There are over 60 of these enterprises constructed with the USSR's aid or assistance. They are rightly considered the backbone of the republic's industry. In Chongjin, the city where the fiercest fighting with the Japanese took place, one of the DPRK's biggest enterprises has grown up -- the Kim Chak Metallurgical Plant. Soviet specialists took part in restoring it after the barbaric bombing attacks during the U.S. aggression and rendered aid in modernizing and expanding it. Now an agreement is being implemented between the two countries on increasing the plant's capacities by 1 million tons of steel. This year a hot rolling shop was commissioned.

In 38 years the North Korean people have achieved considerable successes in creating a new and happy life. These successes are all the more impressive in that the building of socialism in the DPRK is taking place in a complex situation. For over 3 decades now U.S. troops have been occupying the south of the Korean Peninsula. Washington and its obedient Seoul regime are not ceasing their acts of gross military provocation on the DPRK borders. The large-scale U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit-83" military maneuvers held this year can serve as an example. Rebuffing imperialist threats, the DPRK is coming out with constructive proposals aimed at easing the situation on the Korean Peninsula and is struggling for its motherland's peaceful democratic unification. Our country's working people and the Army and Navy servicemen are in solidarity with this noble struggle.

S. KOREA'S KIM YONG-SAM ON U.S. SUPPORT OF SEOUL

SK151119 Moscow in Korean to Korea 1130 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Kim Yong-sam, former president of the New Democratic Party of South Korea, has called on the United States to stop supporting the Seoul dictatorial regime.

As is known, Kim Yong-sam went on a hunger strike for 2 days last May in opposition to the Seoul authorities' policy. While speaking at a press conference yesterday, he said that he had an intention to form a democratic union with Kim Tae-chung, another democratic figure of South Korea. Kim Yong-sam, then, stressed that the first tasks arising from the path to democratization are the release of all political prisoners, lifting of the ban on political activities, amending the Constitution, and holding direct presidential election.

ABE'S NORTHERN ISLANDS INSPECTION 'ANTI-SOVIET'

OW181105 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Olgin commentary]

[Excerpts] Listeners, Foreign Minister Abe plans to visit Nemuro to inspect the "northern territories' in a few days. The following is Radio Moscow commentator Olgin's commentary: Can this inspection tour be taken as an important event in Japan's political life? Tours of a similar nature have been made many times. Leaders at various levels, including several foreign ministers, visited Nemuro for a provocative inspection of the minor Kurile Islands of the Soviet Union. These tours differed only in the nuance of the hackneyed pretexts, such as Japan's traditional rights to the "northern territories" and the nonexistent Soviet threat.

However, while making provocative statements, some of these leaders chattered as if they cherished hopes for improving relations with the Soviet Union. All the statements by high-ranking officials from Tokyo only ended up in empty talk. To our regret it is conceivable that their statements should have ended up exactly in such a result when the intent of Foreign Minister Abe's inspection tour is taken into account. Following in the footsteps of his predecessors, Foreign Minister Abe will visit Nemuro, make an illegitimate territorial demand against the Soviet Union and instigate a revanchist campaign in Japan which is actually an anti-Soviet campaign.

The present state of Soviet-Japanese relations presents a specific demand to those who are in charge of the relations between the two countries. The worsening of the relations between the Soviet Union and Japan, two neighboring countries, will not foster the interests of either side. What is worse, it will only negatively effect international relations, not only in Asia, but in the whole world. The Soviet Union has repeatedly made definite proposals to Japan for establishing mutual understanding and profound trust between the people of the two countries. However, the responses to these proposals have always been either silence or, in most cases, distinctively provocative actions.

It is inconceivable that Japan has taken such an approach out of consideration for its own national interests. Such an approach is based, first of all, on short-sighted opportunistic thinking with the intention of pleasing the government of a third country, that is, the Reagan administration of the United States. In taking such an approach, Japan is attempting to gain the questionable approval of those who contrive to cause all-round confrontation with the Soviet Union and to achieve an illusionary domination over the world. What is needed for the interests of peace is not the continuation of the tiresome campaign of territorial demands against your neighboring country, the Soviet Union.

Neither are needed the notorious clamor about the threat from the north and the attempt to instigate hostility against the Soviet people. What is demanded for the interests of peace are conscientious efforts to reestablish trust and to abolish groundless demands and denunciations. To our regret, however, Foreign Minister Abe's scheduled tour to Hokkaido does not indicate that we can entertain hopes that Tokyo will properly understand these interests. Japan seems to have people who just refuse to take things into serious consideration. Nevertheless, they will have to take things seriously, sooner or later. The earlier they do so, the better.

JAPAN INCREASINGLY BECOMES 'U.S. NUCLEAR BASE'

OW181321 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Viktor Vinogradov commentary]

[Excerpts] As many facts show, Japan has become an even bigger nuclear base for the United States. We will now broadcast military commentator Viktor Vinogradov's commentary: According to remarks by leaders of the Japanese Government and officials of the Liberal Democratic Party, nuclear weapons appeared in Japan only on one occasion -- when the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and no nuclear weapons have ever appeared in Japan since then. Some time ago, Foreign Minister Abe stated that Japan adheres to the three nonnuclear principles and has not played any role whatsoever in the nuclear strategy of the United States. However, his statement has been nullified.

In an interview with the SANKEI SHIMBUN, Reischauer, former American ambassador to Japan, confirmed that the United States regarded as a matter of course that her vessels, with nuclear weapons on board, should traverse the territorial seas of Japan or call at Japanese ports. He stressed that it would be impossible for these vessels to unload nuclear weapons in the open sea before entering Japanese territorial seas or calling at Japanese ports. When all this is taken into consideration, it is presumably correct to say that not only have American vessels with nuclear weapons on board called at Japanese ports, but also that nuclear weapons are stored at some of the American bases in Japan.

The other day new facts indicating the storage of nuclear weapons at the U.S. forces' bases in Japan were made public. (Nobusuke Tomoyori), Japanese Socialist Party member of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, proved that nuclear weapons were stored at the Futenma U.S. forces base in central Okinawa. Assemblyman (Tomoyori) has long been watching the U.S. forces facilities in Okinawa, together with other activists of the peace campaign. The American forces use a certain specific mark to indicate a nuclear armory. Japanese papers report that this mark can be clearly seen on pictures of Futenma base facilities presented to the prefectural assembly by assemblyman (Tomoyori). Japanese papers report the existence of nuclear weapons at the Futenma base in connection with an announcement by the U.S. Forces Command on the deployment of A-4 Skyhawk attack planes at this base. Like F-16 fighter-bombers, A-4 Skyhawks are capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Preparations are now underway at the Misawa base in Aomori Prefecture for receiving F-16's, and when these planes are deployed at this base, the Soviet territories will be within range of F-16's. It goes without saying that the deployment of aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons in Japan will impose a threat to the coastal area of the Soviet Union and thereby cause aggravated tension in the Far East. The leftist political parties and antiwar mass organizations in Japan demand that these dangerous plans be abolished. However, taking everything into consideration, the Japanese ruling circles are ready to cooperate with the United States in turning the country into a nuclear base, to make Japan an 'unsinkable aircraft carrier' of the United States at an early date.

INDIA'S GANDHI ADDRESSES INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY

PM180941 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Independent India's Firm Step"]

[Text] The Indian people are celebrating the 36th anniversary of independence. Rallies and meetings devoted to this portentous date are being held nationwide. All central papers published the greetings message sent by the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers to the Indian president, Zail Singh, and the prime minister, Indira Gandhi.

Early on the morning of 15 August tens of thousands of inhabitants of the capital came to the walls of the historic Red Fort over which, 36 years ago, the flag of independent India was raised. In the square in front of the fort subunits of the three branches of the Armed Forces were lined up. By tradition the salute at the parade was taken by Prime Minister I. Gandhi.

Speaking to those present, the head of the Indian Government pointed out that during the years of independence India had achieved substantial success in agriculture and industry, and in solving many economic and social problems.

The Indian prime minister expressed serious concern about the exacerbation of the international situation. "The imperialist powers," she declared, "widely resort to political, economic, and other pressure on other states so as to retain their dominance. This is much more dangerous than armed intervention since the designs of the imperialist powers cannot always be successfully discerned." I. Gandhi pointed out that India was up against a serious threat both from within and without. "On the basis of previous experience, when our country was the victim of external aggression, we must be vigilant and prepared for any unexpected eventuality."

Taking part in the independence day celebrations was a delegation of the Soviet public led by a deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, I.B. Usmankhodzhayev, that is here to take part in festivities devoted to an Indian-Soviet Friendship Month that is currently being held here.

AFGHAN FORCES ATTACK 'BANDITS' IN KABUL PROVINCE

LD181527 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1015 GMT 18 Aug 83

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Greshnov]

[Text] Khak-e Jabbar (Kabul Province), 18 Aug (TASS) -- The Khak-e Jabbar area is on the border, and from here to the territory of Pakistan is it little more than 60 kms. Here a mountain ravine is crossed with caravan tracks. And it was in precisely this place that the counterrevolution created a major military base for equipping small counterrevolutionary groups operating in Kabul Province with weapons and ammunition. Just a few days ago the Khak-e Jabbar district was the only district in the province controlled by counterrevolutionary groups.

Today there is people's authority here, the backbone of which is made up of 37 party activists, about 60 fighters of the people's militia, and district management bodies.

On 13 August, on the basis of intelligence received, detachments of the 37th Commando Brigade, with the assistance of the 8th Infantry Division of the DRA Armed Forces, inflicted a severe shelling and bombing strike on bandit positions in the gorge area and went into attack immediately after the artillery raid.

Not expecting such an energetic push, the bandits panicked and ran toward the Pakistani border, taking only light fire arms. Some managed to escape. The bandits tried to hide their heavy arms in mountain caves and even in maize fields, but nearly all their caches were discovered and rendered harmless by the government troops.

A large area long the foothills is covered in arms and ammunition taken from the bandits during and after the successful operation, including 82-mm recoilless arms, U.S. hand grenades, heavy machineguns, mortars and ammunition for them.

The bandits also had the most modern weapons -- ground-to-air missiles, and antitank and antipersonnel plastic compression mines. Armored cars are still bringing in more weapons taken from the bandits, as the military operation is continuing. To date, the amount of captured weaponry prompts the assumption that the bandit's arsenal was one of the largest taken by government forces during the 5-year fight against the counter-revolutionaries.

BRIEFS

NEW AFGHAN PORT -- Kabul, 13 Aug (TASS) -- The DRA Government has adopted a decision on the construction of a new port town, Hayratan, which will be situated on an area of 600 hectares on the northern border river Amur-Darya. A large part of the Afghan-Soviet commodity circulation and freight from European countries has already passed through its its docks. The general plan for building the town envisages construction of about 160 houses, as well as trade and catering enterprises, schools, hospitals, and hotels. In all about 40,000 people will live in the new town. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1132 GMT 13 Aug 83 LD]

AGRARIAN AID TO AFGHANISTAN -- More than 300,000 least-well-provided-for peasant families have received plots of land during the implementation in Afghanistan of the two stages of the agrarian and water reform. Under the plan for further development of agricultural production this year alone the redistribution of tens of thousands of tons of chemical fertilizer and seed among state firms, cooperatives and individual peasants is envisaged. There will be a more than 50 percent increase in volume of services provided to peasants by machine and tractor stations. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 17 Aug 83 LD]

TIES VIEWED ON INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE JUBILEE

PM181352 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Aug 83 First Edition p 3

[V. Irinin commentary: "Indonesia -- Anniversary of Independence"]

[Text] The Indonesian people are currently celebrating the 38th anniversary of their country's independence.

A great path has been traveled over these years. From the very first days the young republic was on the receiving end of powerful pressure from Western countries -- first and foremost the United States, Britain, and the Netherlands -- which with the help of an extensive arsenal of political, economic, and military means tried to stifle it or make it toe their policy line. Indonesia has gained great international prestige in its opposition to the forces of imperialism and colonialism.

The Soviet Union has always related sympathetically to the Indonesian people's struggle to assert their political and economic independence. Our country was one of the first states to raise its voice in defense of the young republic from the incursions of imperialists. Bilateral relations underwent special development after diplomatic relations were established in 1950. The USSR aided Indonesia in laying the foundations of its national economy, in building up its Armed Forces, and in training its national cadres. The solidity of our friendship was put to the test in that difficult period for the Indonesian people when they were involved in the struggle to liberate West Irian and needed help from their friends.

The history of Soviet-Indonesian relations has ebbed and flowed. But life has convincingly shown that the objective preconditions for the multilateral development of Soviet-Indonesian cooperation do exist.

As the experience of our relations -- including those of recent years -- shows, the foundation of this cooperation lies in the closeness of the USSR's and Indonesia's positions on the most pressing problems of the day, and above all on the questions of peace and war. It is no accident that the Soviet and Indonesian delegations vote together on many such questions in the United Nations and other international organizations.

Contacts and links are maintained between our two countries. In July last year a delegation from the USSR Supreme Soviet led by A.S. Barkavskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, visited Indonesia. Bilateral trade continues to develop.

However, life shows us that far from all the possibilities for developing our cooperation are being utilized. Certain circles in the country, out to please a certain someone overseas, are trying to introduce elements of suspicion and mistrust into our bilateral relations and thereby retard their development.

There are, of course, differences between our countries' approaches to one problem or another. But it is quite obvious that it is not these differences but rather the many things that unite the two countries that should determine long-term USSR-Indonesian relations. Precisely such an approach would meet the interests of both countries.

In connection with Indonesia's National Day, Soviet people wish the friendly people success in solving the tasks of national development that face them.

PRAVDA CITES HANOI PAPER ON PRK'S PLACE IN UN

PM190835 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 83 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Futile Attempts"]

[Text] Hanoi, 16 Aug -- All attempts to galvanize the political corpse of Pol Pot and his henchmen that are being undertaken by Washington and other reactionary forces on the eve of the latest UN vote on Kampuchea's representation at this international organization, are doomed to failure, the newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN writes.

Despite the provocative and slanderous campaign launched by imperialism and reaction, the revolutionary process in the PRK is steadily developing and the internal situation is stabilizing. That was confirmed by the latest partial withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea.

The so-called "coalition government of democratic Kampuchea" is, in fact, nothing but a rabble of traitors and muderers, torn apart by internal contradictions, who do not enjoy the support of the Kampuchean people and have no right to represent Kampuchea at the United Nations.

Increasingly broad circles of the world public are realizing this. They understand the true intentions of the imperialist and reactionary forces who are nurturing and arming the Pol Potite gangs. In boosting the "coalition," the newspaper writes, they are trying to use it not only in the struggle against the Kampuchean people but also against Vietnam and all three Indochinese countries and are striving to undermine the process of strengthening peace and calm in the region and to hinder dialogue between the Indochinese states and the ASEAN countries.

The PRK's international prestige is growing. The Pol Potites' crimes are causing indignation among all the progressive forces in the world. The attempts by their protectors to reserve a place for Pol Pot in the United Nations are doomed to failure, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN stresses.

VIETNAM CITED ON BORDER CLASHES WITH PRC

LD182344 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Hanoi August 18 TASS -- The Vietnamese News Agency VNA has released a communique on the hostile actions of the Chinese side on the Vietnamese-Chinese border during the first half of August. During that period a number of Vietnam's frontier areas were fired at from mortars on many occasions and large groups of Chinese soldiers intruded into the Langson, Caobang, Quangninh and Hatuyen Provinces. Intruders planted mines on roads, cut communications lines and opened fire at population centres.

As a result of these actions of the Chinese side, the news agency points out, there are casualties among the Vietnamese civilian population and loss of property.

HONECKER ADDRESSES GDR-POLAND AMITY MEETING

LD181202 Moscow TASS in English 1121 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Warsaw August 18 TASS -- In conditions of the present deterioration in the international situation by fault of the most aggressive circles of the United States and NATO, the joint struggle by the peoples for preventing the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and safeguarding a peaceful future for our planet is acquiring ever greater significance. The socialist countries, all peace champions are ever more actively coming out against the plans for the deployment in Western Europe of new American medium-range nuclear missiles which threaten a further intensification of the military confrontation.

This was said by Erich Honecker, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the State Council of the GDR, speaking at a Polish-German friendship meeting in the Silesian town of Czeladz. Honecker had come to the Polish People's Republic on an official friendship visit heading a party and state delegation of the GDR. He pointed out that the initiatives of the USSR and other socialist countries, advanced by their leaders at the meetings in Prague and Moscow, were a reliable foundation for the general efforts of the peace forces.

As for the GDR, Honecker said, it is consistently striving for the threat of war never again coming from German land and once again urges the FRG to revise its position concerning the deployment of American missiles on its territory, aware of the lofty responsibility of both German states for the maintenance of peace.

Honecker reaffirmed the resolve of the GDR to continue the all-round development and deepening of the relations of friendship and cooperation with Poland, the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries.

Review of Honecker Visit

LD181751 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Warsaw August 18 TASS -- A party and state delegation of the GDR led by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, chairman of the State Council of the GDR, completed its official friendly visit to Poland and left for home today.

During the visit Erich Honecker had talks with Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland. The Polish news agency PAP reports that the sides highly praised the level of development of bilateral relations. They exchanged information on the development of the sociopolitical and economic situation in both countries, and discussed practical ways for expanding economic, scientific and technical cooperation and industrial co-production with account of the plans for drafting a long-term program in that field as well as the participation of both countries in the economic integration within the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) framework.

Reviewing international problems, the sides emphasised that the deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in some of the NATO countries would pose a threat to peace in Europe and the world over. Proceeding from that, the GDR and Poland expressed their determination to make everything at one with the Soviet Union to ensure the security of their countries and the socialist community as a whole.

CPSU SENDS GREETINGS TO BCP'S DRAGOYCHEVA

PM181253 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 83 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Tsola Dragoycheva, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and honorary chairman of the All-National Committee for Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship:

Dear Comrade Dragoycheva!

The CPSU Central Committee cordially congratulates you on your 85th birthday.

You joined the ranks of revolutionary fighters for their people's happiness early in life. Neither fascist jails and concentration camps nor death sentences were able to deflect you from the path you chose in response to the call of duty.

For many years you have given all your energies and knowledge and your wealth of revolutionary and life experience to the cause of building a developed socialist society in Bulgaria and to the cause of strengthening peace and friendship among peoples.

We warmly greet you -- patriot and internationalist, and great friend of our country -- and value your contribution to deepening and developing the friendship and all-around cooperation between the Bulgarian and Soviet people and to developing the all-national movement for friendship with the Soviet Union in Bulgaria.

From the bottom of our hearts we wish you, dear Comrade Dragoycheva, good health, vigor, and creative energy in your noble work.

CPSU Central Committee

CPCZ'S HAVLIN MEETS WITH CPSU CULTURAL OFFICIAL

LD190225 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1930 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Josef Havlin, CPCZ Central Committee secretary, today met the head of the Department of Culture of the CPSU Central Committee, Vasiliy Shauro, and the chairman of the all-union leadership of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Society, Aleksandr Bulgakov, who are in Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Central Committee of the party. In a comradely discussion they exchanged information on the fulfillment of the conclusions of the 16th CPCZ Congress and 26th CPSU Congress and about the implementation of further tasks of the two fraternal parties in culture and the arts. The talks confirmed the unity of views of the two sides on cultural policy and the mutual need for further close cooperation.

CONTRAST OF U.S., USSR MEDITERRANEAN POLICIES

LD182123 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Robert Serebrennikov writes:

The serious anxiety of the international community over the further activisation of the United States policy of force and confrontation in the Mediterranean found its expression in a report by Javier Perez de Cuellar, the secretary general of the United Nations, to the 38th session of the United Nations General Assembly. This major document, summing up the replies from governments of United Nations member countries is headed "Strengthening of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region."

The conversion of the Mediterranean Sea, which washes the shores of three continents -- Europe, Asia and Africa, into a region of peace and cooperation is one of the topical international problems of our time. The main obstacle to this is the hegemonistic and expansionist policy of the Reagan administration which proclaimed this region lying thousands of kilometres from the United States as a "zone of its vital interests."

The Pentagon is feverishly building up its nuclear presence there, is expanding the network of its bases destabilising the situation in the Mediterranean. Particular anxiety of the Mediterranean peoples has been aroused by plans for the deployment of new American nuclear missiles at Comiso (Sicily) which is creating a new seat of tension and is complicating the prospects of demilitarisation of the region.

The entire danger of the United States military presence for peace and international security has been revealed by the developments in Chad. To justify its arrogant and undisguised intervention on the African Continent, the United States resorts to direct military pressure on Libya. The ships of the United States Sixth Fleet -- the tool of "gunboat diplomacy" -- were alerted and a large naval group including the atomic aircraft carrier "Eisenhower" was moved to the shores of Libya.

A real road to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean has been opened up by the broad complex of proposals advanced in the last twenty-five years by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

Being a Black Sea and, hence, a Mediterranean power, the USSR took the initiative in May 1963 for the conversion of the entire Mediterranean into a zone free of nuclear weapons and vehicles for their delivery. The minister of foreign affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko submitted a memorandum "for peace and disarmament, for Guarantees of International Security" to the 35th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1980. The memorandum stresses the need of strengthening security in the Mediterranean.

The summer of 1981 witnessed another major initiative of the Soviet Union, which proposed that an international agreement be reached on the extension to the Mediterranean region of confidence-building measures in the military sphere, which had already justified themselves in international practice, on an agreed reduction of armed forces in the region, on the withdrawal from the Mediterranean of ships carrying nuclear weapons, on the renunciation of the deployment of nuclear weapons on the territories of Mediterranean non-nuclear countries, on the adoption by the nuclear powers of commitments not to use nuclear weapons against any Mediterranean country which does not permit the deployment of such weapons on its territory.

The idea of converting the Mediterranean into a zone of stable peace and cooperation was reflected in a memorandum submitted by the USSR to the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament in June 1982.

The Prague conference of the political consultative committee of the Warsaw treaty in January last went on record in favour of opening talks on limiting naval activity, on limiting and reducing naval armaments, on the extension of confidence-building measures to seas and oceans. This, undoubtedly, also applies to the Mediterranean.

Such an alternative accords with the provisions of the final act of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. This will be facilitated by a successful conclusion of the Madrid meeting which discussed among other things questions of strengthening security, cooperation and stability in the Mediterranean.

GREEK GOVERNMENT 'CONCERNED' ABOUT U.S. MISSILES

LD182225 Moscow TASS in English 2142 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Athens August 18 TASS -- The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Ioannis Kharalambopoulos, who is now the head of the Council of Ministers of European Communities [as received], said that the Government of Greece was deeply concerned over the possible consequences for the cause of peace of the deployment of new American nuclear missiles on the European Continent. An official statement circulated today points out that the prime minister of Greece came up with a proposal to postpone by 6 months the deployment of American nuclear missiles in Western Europe. He sent a letter to this effect to the foreign ministers of the Common Market member states.

The letter stresses that thanks to this additional 6-month postponement, the Geneva talks with the aim to reach an agreement could be continued.

U.S. 'PRESSURE' ON PORTUGAL FOR EXPANDED BASES

LD190529 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Reports from Lisbon say that the Portuguese-U.S. talks on extending the agreement concerning the U.S. lease on the Lajes Air Force Base in the Azores will be resumed soon. International affairs journalist Eduard Kovalev writes that the pressure being exerted by the present U.S. Administration on Portugal is increasing. In recent months the White House and the Pentagon have pulled out all stops in order to get the Portuguese authorities to agree to a sharp increase in the U.S. military presence in that country, not only on the Atlantic islands but also on mainland Portugal. Under the guise of talks about extending the term of the lease on the base on Teceira Island of the Azores archipelago, the U.S. side is in actual fact demanding that its NATO partner give its consent for the use of a considerable area of Portuguese territory and waters for the basing of U.S. ground forces and warships and warplanes carrying nuclear weapons on board. Clearly the Americans aim to obtain the right to use bases on Portuguese territory as staging posts for the transfer of their interventionist Rapid Deployment Forces.

At the moment there are no reports that these efforts by the U.S. side have been crowned with success. However, U.S. pressure is constantly increasing. The campaign by the popular masses, by Portuguese peace supporters, may play a decisive role in the struggle for sovereignty and national independence.

Press reports about the possible stockpiling of U.S. atomic ammunition at the Beja Air Force Base in southern Portugal have caused outrage among the population and the local authorities. Fulfilling the wishes of the inhabitants, the municipal assembly of Beja has decided to declare the entire district a nuclear-free zone. This action is of great importance for the country as a whole. The example set by the inhabitants of the Beja district, who have acted against the nuclear threat, may be followed by the inhabitants of other towns and regions of the country in the next few months.

ITALIAN SOCIALISTS HEW TO 'RIGHTIST COURSE'

PM181453 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent N. Paklin "International Commentary": "What the Debate Showed"]

[Excerpts] Rome -- Italy's new government headed by the socialist B. Craxi has acquired "civic rights." As expected, it received a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Italian Parliament, where the five parties of the present government coalition command a majority.

The parliamentary debate was stormy. The deputies of the majority placed the emphasis on proving that the five-party coalition is the only one possible under present conditions. The idea that the appointment of the Socialist Party's political secretary to the post of premier almost automatically guarantees the new cabinet a "progressive nature" was apparent in the speeches of B. Craxi and certain other Socialists. Opposition spokesmen, citing the results of the recent election, in which the Christian Democratic Party [DC] suffered defeat, pointed out that there exists a real alternative to the DC's hegemonist claims to power.

However, the Socialist Party made its choice in favor of an alliance with the DC -- the party of big capital. This political choice was dictated not by concern for "stability of power," as the Socialists try to depict it, but by the rightist course of the Socialist Party's present leadership.

Spokesmen for the opposition, and primarily for the Italian Communist Party [PCI] emphasized that the B. Craxi government bears the "stamp of conservatism," and the predominant role is played in it, as in previous governments, by the DC. Italian Communists evaluated the creation of the five-party majority as an attempt to "rule Italy without and against the PCI" -- the mass party of the working class. Communist deputies pointed out that in the past similar attempts have invariably ended in failure.

The debate showed that the five-party majority is by no means politically united. A number of the Socialists who spoke were very critical not only of the DC but also of the Republican Party, which represents the interests of middle sections of Italian employers, and representatives of these parties gave the Socialists as good as they got. Moreover, substantial contradictions between the different trends that exist within the parties of the government majority themselves once again came to the surface. The picture characteristic of previous five-party coalitions of the same composition, which collapsed as a result of internal contradictions, is in point of fact being repeated. At any rate, Italian political commentators do not undertake to predict a long life for B. Craxi's cabinet.

Representatives of the majority and the opposition were unanimous in the opinion that the number 1 problem in the foreign policy sphere is the deployment of American nuclear missiles in West Europe, including on Italian territory.

B. Craxi confined himself to repeating the Atlanticists' thesis that if progress is not made soon in Geneva, American nuclear missiles will be deployed in Sicily in accordance with the NATO decision. And yet the Italian Socialist leader is well aware that it is precisely the United States that is blocking the Geneva talks, having set itself the aim of gaining time and foisting nuclear missiles on West Europe.

The opposition clearly defined its attitude to this problem. "We have already said and we repeat once again that we are against the deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles," PCI Secretary General E. Berlinguer declared in the Chamber of Deputies.

Complex problems face the new government. Will it prove capable of taking steps in the interests of Italy's working people and democratic strata, in the interests of peace and the peoples' security? This will be judged according to its deeds.

SOVIET GEOLOGIST IN SPITSBERGEN DEFECTS

LD151112 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] A Soviet geologist who has been working in Spitsbergen has defected and sought political asylum in Norway. The Soviet geologist belonged to an expedition which for the past year has been carrying out research work in a Soviet mine in Spitsbergen. A few days ago the man left a message for a Norwegian representative who happened to visit the place in which the geologist requested to be transported to Norwegian territory.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW INTERVIEWED

PM181331 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Aug 83 First Edition p 3

[G. Musayelyan, A. Alekseyev interview with R. ash-Sha'ir, PLO charge d'affaires in Moscow: "The Banner of Our Struggle; PLO Charge d'Affaires R. ash-Sha'ir on the Problem of a Near East Settlement" -- first paragraph is editorial introduction -- date and place of interview not given]

[Text] Buildings, like people, have their destinies. This small two-story tree-shaded detached house on the old Arbat [thoroughfare in Moscow] has seen quite a lot in its long life. Old Muscovites allege that it even witnessed the fire of 1812. But it survived and still serves people. A few years ago, when Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, came to Moscow, he raised Palestine's banner on the flagstaff here. Since that memorable time, the heart of this house, in which the permanent PLO mission is accommodated, has beaten in unison with the hearts of the millions of Palestinians fighting for their legitimate rights and cherishing a pious belief in the triumph of the just cause. This mission has a lot of work to do today -- press conferences, meetings with Palestinian delegations, conversations, and talks. Young Palestinian men and women, who have come to study in the Soviet Union, throng here as though to their own home.

"Look at that lot," Rami ash-Sha'ir, PLO charge d'affaires in Moscow, said getting up from the table and leading us over to a wide window which looked out onto the small square in front of the house. "Today is a memorable day for our boys and girls: they have received their specialists' diplomas -- as engineers, doctors, builders, oilworkers...to create the foundations of the future Palestinian state requires trained national cadres. Because they understand this, the PLO has for many years now been implementing a broad program of development of the education system. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have been giving us great help in this. Today, the Palestinians have the highest percentage of people with higher and secondary education in the Arab world. But where are they to apply their knowledge? For the Zionists have taken everything from us -- land, homes, and work. For this reason, the young specialists are forced to go off to foreign lands and live as wanderers...

"And this is just one of the problems of our people, who are subjected to very violent attacks from imperialism and Zionism. Look at these Western newspapers and magazines," Rami ash-Sha'ir said, approaching a bookcase and taking out a bulky file from one of the shelves. "Recently I had a talk in this study with a correspondent of the British newspaper THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, just as I am with you. He gave the impression of being an honest person and, apparently, wanted to tell his readers the truth. And what was the result?"

We looked at the first page of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH. Large-print headlines screamed out: "Rami ash-Sha'ir Responsible for Training Terrorists in Soviet Union..."

"Dirty methods such as these," the PLO charge d'affaires in Moscow said, "are currently being used to sow the seeds of strife among the Palestinian resistance movement fighters. For instance, as if at a command, the American magazines NEWSWEEK and TIME, the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL, and others made a simultaneous attack aimed at undermining the authority of Fatah. They depicted some of its leaders as all but fervent supporters...of the Reagan plan. Naturally this was a deliberate lie. The plan is not even worth examining. It leaves aside key questions such as Palestinians' self-determination and the creation of a Palestinian state. Discussing such a plan only means deluding people.

"What attitude did the 16th session of Palestine's National Council display to the American plan. Hundreds of Western correspondents arrived in Algiers to record the 'PLO split.' But the bubble burst with a pop.

The session demonstrated once again our cohesion, our determination to fight to the end, and our complete rejection of the so-called Reagan initiative. By the second day most of the bourgeois journalists began to leave the Algerian capital posthaste....

"What is the essence of the present phase of our national liberation movement? The chief aims of the United States and Israel during the aggression in Lebanon suffered a fiasco. The PLO came out of these very severe trials with head held high, preserving its military formations and political organizations. What is more, the events in Lebanon showed that under modern conditions, peoples' destinies cannot be decided by force.

"Realizing that the PLO cannot be crushed by military means, the Zionists and imperialists decided to undermine the Palestinians' unity from within and weaken our moral spirit. The leading Palestinian organization Al-Fatah became the target of undercover intrigues. And a terrible racket was kicked up again on the pages of the Eastern press. The American mass media depict the matter as if not just Fatah but also the PLO is undergoing a virtually irreversible political crisis. By this step, the United States wants to carry out a regrouping of forces in the region in its favor.

"At the same time the authors of this campaign are striving to distract the world public's attention from the so-called 'peace agreement' which has been foisted on Lebanon, the need for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressor's troops from this long-suffering country, and the Zionists' crimes committed on the lands they occupy. Washington and Tel Aviv would like the disagreements in the PLO to become the number one topic in the world press. Each revolution, including our own, has its problems and difficulties. But we have always resolved them successfully. And they will be settled this time as well."

"Everything you have told us, Comrade Rami, leads us to the conclusion that the Palestinians' self-determination and the creation of an independent Palestinian state are the key issues for a just and all-embracing Near East settlement. The 12th Arab summit conference in Fes laid realistic foundations for the practical solution of this problem...."

"The matter still rests on the policy of the American-Israeli alliance which, since the advancement in September 1982 of the so-called Reagan plan, has become more refined and contrived. The political courses of the United States and of Israel in the Near East cannot by rights be separated, still less placed in mutual opposition, though outwardly, from what they say matters seem to stand like this: while Begin categorically rejects not just the idea of a Palestinian state, but even the very existence of the Palestinians as a nation, Reagan -- in proposing the plan of 'self-government' for the Palestinians -- indirectly recognizes the importance of the Palestinian problem for a general Near East settlement.

"In reality, the Reagan plan is none other than a political game, with the pretensions to finesse, subordinated to the task of further strengthening the "strategic alliance" between the United States and Israel, overtly anti-Soviet in thrust, and contrary to the national interests of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

"A movement supporting our just struggle is growing throughout the world. Among the most recent evidence of this is the UN General Assembly decision to hold an international conference on the question of Palestine from 29 August throught 7 September in Geneva. The position of the USSR and the other socialist countries at the forthcoming forum is very constructive and coincides to a large extent with the Fes decisions.

"The struggle of the Palestinian people," Rami ash-Sha'ir said in conclusion, "is closing ranks with the struggle of all people for peace on our planet. There is now no statesman who can disregard the demands to lessen the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

Nor are the words 'peace and security' ever far from the lips of Israel's Prime Minister Begin and his bosses in Washington either. But what sort of 'peace' do they have in mind? The peace of diktat and force!

"I have been living for many years now in your wonderful country, whose people know better than anybody on earth the horrors of war, destruction, and the death of millions of sons and daugthers. It is precisely for this reason that you take so much to heart the troubles and sufferings of other people. Numerous letters from Soviet citizens are received by our mission. They are letters of support, expressions of compassion and faith in the ultimate victory of the Palestinian people.

"During the years I have worked in the Soviet Union I have had many meetings with Muscovites, Leningraders and residents of Kiev...and today I would like to describe one of these, which took place 1,000 km from the Soviet capital. I once had occasion to visit Novosibirsk, and then at the invitation of our hospitable hosts we went to visit one of the oil fields. I will never forget the reception I was given there. I have not, however, expressed myself very precisely. They were not greeting me personally but a Palestinian, a representative of the people whose heroic struggle is so well known in every corner of your motherland. I was talking not with diplomats or journalists but with ordinary geologists and construction workers. How easy it was to talk with them and how profoundly they understood the chief essence of our problem: that the Palestinians have a legitimate right to self-determination, the right to return to the motherland and create their own independent state! I told those geologists and construction workers then what I believe -- that the day will come when our banner of struggle and victories will be raised aloft over the roof of my own house in Palestine."

AZ-ZU'BI INTERVIEWED ON IMPRESSIONS OF USSR

LD190358 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The cordial official visit paid by the Syrian People's Assembly delegation led by the Assembly speaker, Mahmud az-Zu'bi ended this week. On the eve of his departure to his homeland, Mahmud az-Zu'bi received our radio representative Sergey Krilov and replied to his questions. He spoke of his impressions of his tour of the USSR. He said:

[Begin recording] [Az-Zu'bi] During our stay in the USSR we had several meetings. We had a meeting with Comrade Aliyev, member of the Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. We also met with Comrade Ruben, chairman of the Council of Nationalities. We also had other cordial meetings at the Arab-Soviet Friendship Society. We also met with the board of Moscow University and with party officials and the Supreme Soviet of Estonia.

The visit as a whole was rich and useful and convinced us that the firm, principled stand of the CPSU supports Syria and the Arab national liberation movement. We also realized that all that we have heard about the USSR being the sincere friend of the Arabs and about its struggling for the establishment of a just peace, not only in the Middle East, but throughout the international arena was true.

During our visits to various installations and our meetings with the officials at work and production sites and other places we visited, we sensed the love of the Soviet people for work. We have also witnessed the great development and huge achievements attained under the banners of the Soviet authorities. For example, in Estonia we saw great achievements which would not have materialized in a republic like Estonia with such a relatively small population had it not been for the Soviet authorities and had it not been for the socialist system, which enabled this republic to realize these great achievements.

We also witnessed the people's love for work at one of the kolkhozes we visited. We greatly admired the life of the kolkhoz inhabitants. We admired even further their love for the land and for socialism and peace. We noted their great political knowledge of world issues and of the Middle East issue. We also noted the kolkhoz inhabitants' love and that of Soviet citizens for the Syrian people. They hold in high esteem the struggle of our people in Syria.

We were pleased indeed by our visit to these achievements. We consider every achievement, development and progress made by the great Soviet people an achievement serving the interests of all the peoples of the world. All peoples must join hands with the USSR in the face of the reactionary American imperialist offensive represented by the current U.S. Administration.

We are confident and optimistic that this solidarity and joining of hands will bear fruit and bring about the desired results and curb U.S. hegemonous capabilities over the world.

[Sergey Krilov] Thank you very much, your excellency. With your permission, I wish to put to you another question. During your talks with Aliyev and other Soviet leaders, you spoke of the struggle of the Syrian people and government against the Israeli aggression whether in Lebanon, Syria or the Middle East. You also spoke of their struggle against the American imperialist maneuvers in the region. Could you talk to Radio Moscow listeners about this aspect of the talks?

[Az-Zu'bi] During our meetings, we acquainted the Soviet leaders with the explosive situation in the Middle East. The principal cause of this situation lies in the Israeli aggressive expansionist policy and Israel's attempts to achieve the dream of world Zionism by setting up greater Isreal at the expense of the Arab people and the Arab land.

The second cause for the explosiveness of the situation in the region lies in the constant American attempts to dominate this region and its wealth and to exploit this wealth to commit aggression against the other peoples and to exploit the strategic position of this vital part of the world as part of its policy against the USSR and the socialist camp.

Naturally, on the basis of its progressive line and in accordance with the principles of our party -- the socialist Arab Ba'th Party -- which opposed imperialism, Zionism and the United States, Syria constantly stands against the designs of the above mentioned, relying in this regard on its own capabilities and the support of the friends and forces of progress and liberation in the Arab area and the world at large.

For this reason, Syria has taken a stand against the Camp David process and has prevented the continuation of this process. It has also opposed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Today it stands against the American-Israeli agreements which are intended to be imposed on the Lebanese people with the help of the Phalangist Party. It supports the struggle of the Lebanese people led these days by the National Salvation Front. We believe that this agreement, which was signed under duress with the aim of keeping Lebanon out of the Arab fold and to place it under American hegemony and consequently under Israeli domination, reduces Lebanon's security, unity and independence as well as that of Syria and the other Arab countries. Furthermore, there are other international dimensions. We stand against this agreement and will not permit it to pass.

Our talks with our Soviet comrades on the developments in the Middle East have been positive and constructive. We have been told also that our Soviet comrades will continue to bolster Syria and its progressive line and steadfastness and will consequently secure all that is required of this steadfastness and defense in implementing the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Syria.

We are confident that this support has created a state of national upsurge among the masses of Syria and the Arab region. The Arab masses are optimistic that victory shall be theirs and that the American goals of domination and those of Israel are bound to fail.

[Krilov] Thank you. You have, of course, talked about one of the fields of Syrian-Soviet cooperation. Could you talk to us on the other fields of cooperation and their horizons?

[Az-Zu'bi] There is at present fruitful and successful cooperation between the USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic in all fields: economic, cultural, military and political. There is vast potentials for further developing these areas of cooperation. We believe that this cooperation will grow. There are numerous projects which have been implemented in Syria with the help of the USSR. There are many other projects being studied, which will be implemented through the continuous contacts between the two countries. In the end, there is bound to be a close link between the Syrian economy and the socialist economy represented by the friendly USSR. Such a link will help the cause of socialist building in Syria and the cause of the Arab people and their liberation. This is because it is a known fact that economic and cultural ties are as important as the other ties. The economic building and cooperation between the two people as well as the cultural cooperation prepare the ground for all the future horizons to which the peoples of the Syrian Arab Republic and the friendly USSR aspire. In the end, we must all be in one camp: The camp opposed to imperialism, the camp which is trying to build socialism. The USSR provides a good example for the building of socialism. It is the first socialist country and it possesses enough experience and capabilities.

The relations between the USSR and Syria are based on equality, justice and, naturally, preventing harm to either side. This is what distinguishes the relations with the USSR. When the imperialist countries provide help or set up projects in other countries, they do so for the sake of realizing political interests which are contrary to the interests of the peoples who establish relations with the imperialist countries. The best example of what I am saying can be seen in Syria and the Arab region and the world.

[Krilov] Thank you for your statement. I wish to thank you again in the name of Soviet radio. I wish you personally and the entire Syrian people all success in the struggle against the Israeli aggressor, against imperialism and Zionism as well as in their struggle to build a new Syria.

U.S. RELAPSE INTO 'GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY' CASTIGATED

PM181415 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 83 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed article under the rubric "Our Comment" and under the general heading: "To End 'Gunboat Diplomacy.' The UN Security Council Resumed Discussion of the Question of U.S. Military Provocations Against Libya"]

[Text] The present American Administration's policy of force and diktat in international relations has dangerously exacerbated the situation in practically all regions of the globe. Quite recently, North Africa became one of the planet's hotspots.

This is a result of interference by imperialist powers in the internal conflict in the Republic of Chad and of the vociferous campaign mounted against Libya in connection with the events in Chad.

This is not the first time the United States has threatened Libya, whose independent anti-imperialist course arouses its undisguised irritation. With the help of such blackmail it is endeavoring to intimidate Tripoli, make the country abandon its progressive domestic and foreign policy, and strengthen American positions on the African Continent.

Just the same aim -- to extend the zone of its influence and crush democratic and national liberation forces -- is characteristic of U.S. relations with developing countries. The selfsame methods are used everywhere -- kindling of conflicts, interference in internal affairs, the threatened use of military force.

Naturally, Washington's hegemonist ways arouse the just indignation of young states, which demand an end to the dangerous relapses into "gunboat politics." They are supported by all peace-loving forces, as demonstrated once again by the UN Security Council session.

ATH-THAWRAH ARTICLE ON USSR-IRAQ RELATIONS VIEWED

LD182117 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The Iraqi ATH-THAWRAH has published an article on Iraqi-Soviet relations. The basis of the article is the conviction of the need to develop and widen these relations. The paper pointed out that Iraq's friendship with the Soviet Union conforms with the interests of both sides and is not characterized by tactical considerations or political maneuvering. Naturally we cannot but agree on this. Time has tested the solidarity of the friendly relations between our two countries and their effectiveness was proved by the tangible fruits of the Soviet-Iraqi cooperation which has greatly contributed to the progress of Iraq socially and economically.

But ATH-THAWRAH while supporting in principle friendship with the Soviet Union, has decided for some reason to talk about the Marxist-Leninist ideology and about the endeavor of the Soviet Union to impose its domination over the world. This we cannot at all agree with.

The essence of the Marxist-Leninist ideology is based on the fact that it rejects any domination and provides for total freedom of the toiling human being and every people and nation. Moreover what ATH-THAWRAH had pointed about the international proletariat revolution as a commodity for export is also unfounded. The Marxist-Leninist strongly rejects the exportation of the revolution and asserts the right of every people to self-determination and rules out intervention and tutelage from outside.

It is appropriate to recall, while returning to the Soviet-Iraqi relations, that they did rely and continue to rely always on the principles of total equality and mutual respect of sovereignty, independence and mutual benefit. These principles, which were hallowed for the first time in the history of mankind by the Marxist-Leninist ideology, have become now the standard of the contemporary international relations and contempory international law. Indeed there is no need to [word indistinct] this invigorating source which has revived the mutual just relations amongst peoples, otherwise, as ATH-THAWRAH said we might be in an arid land full of thorns.

AL-QADHDHAFI DENOUNCES FRENCH PRESENCE IN CHAD

LD182233 Moscow TASS in English 2154 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Paris August 18 TASS -- Speaking in an interview in the French television program "TF-10," leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi refuted Western propaganda fabrications about the presence of Libyan troops in Chad, and said that France is directly involved in the Chadian conflict. The stay of French troops in Chad's territory is in conflict with the provisions of the French-Chadian agreements of 1967, and there is no legal justification for it. The scale of the French military presence threatens the participation of French troops in an internal conflict, which may lead to a catastrophe. The conflict in Chad is of an internal character, and nobody has the right to interfere in it, M. al-Qadhdhafi stressed. The Chadians themselves should resolve disputable issues without interference from the outside. As far as Libya is concerned, it is always ready to participate in a peaceful settlement of the problem.

The Libyan leader has strongly criticized the USA which is out to internationalize the Chadian conflict. It has already drawn France into it.

M. al-Qadhdhafi accused Washington of interfering in the internal affairs of Chad and of spreading mendacious information about the events in that country. He expressed concern over the fact that a large-scale intervention by the West may result in the loss of independence by Chad.

He declared for strengthening the independence of the countries of the African Continent. Africa, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said, must be genuinely free and be master of its own natural resources.

BRIEFS

CONGOLESE 'HIGHER PARTY SCHOOL' -- A solemn opening ceremony of the higher party school, a gift from the CPSU Central Committee to the Congolese Labor Party, took place in the capital of the People's Republic of the Congo, Brazzaville. Taking part were Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Congolese Labor Party Central Committee and president, other leaders, as well as the Soviet party and state delegation led by Kalin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2230 GMT 13 Aug 83 LD]

U.S. SAID INCREASING ANTI-NICARAGUAN ACTIVITY

LD182201 Moscow TASS in English 1628 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

Heads of the Washington administration are stepping up their anti-Nicaraguan activities in Central America, striving to knock together a coalition against Nicaragua made up of reactionary forces and regimes. REUTER reports from Guatemala with reference to the diplomatic sources that it is believed there that the recent military coup in Guatemala testified to the formation of a kind of an "iron triangle", in other words, of a military alliance consisting of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, which would be directed against Nicaragua. The point at issue is the direct knocking together of a military grouping under the aegis of the U.S. rallying three Washington-backed anti-people regimes, which could be used by the Reagan administration as a cover-up for the expansion of the U.S. military presence and for their direct military intervention in Central America. By all appearances, American strategists singled out that region as a special theatre of military operations, where it is preferable to solve political and other problems primarily military means. [sentence as received]

For this reason it is not accidental that the U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger is setting out for a tour of a number of Central American states early next month. The Pentagon chief will visit El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama, which has on its territory U.S. bases imposed upon that country and used by the U.S. military as a springboard for the transportation of American troops to any part of the Latin American continent. According to American observers, during the trip Weinberger is to underline the striving of the U.S. to meet its commitment concerning the increase of the U.S. military presence in that region.

All this shows that the Reagan administration is not going to withdraw its naval units from the waters off the Central American shores, to eliminate the jumping-off ground of the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Force" in Honduras and to stop provocations against Nicaragua. Moreover, it tries to draw other countries into this dirty venture and to kindle an all-out war in the region.

Israel, the U.S. "strategic partner" in the Middle East, actively joined in Washington's activities in Central America. It already made public its decision to reopen its embassy in San Salvador and to start rendering military assistance to the ruling regime.

The Reagan administration's activities against Nicaragua and the patriotic forces of El Salvador carried on in several directions simultaneously, including the knocking together of a military alliance of pro-American regimes, does not at all mean that the threat of a direct U.S. intervention in the region has been removed or become less serious. On the contrary, this threat is aggravating because Washington's "allies" can be used for provoking at any time an armed conflict against Nicaragua. This, in its turn, can give a "green light" to the Pentagon for starting an aggression.

HONDURAN VIOLATION OF NICARAGUAN AIRSPACE NOTED

LD180636 Moscow TASS in English 0451 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, August 18 TASS -- The Honduran military stages a new gross provocation against Nicaragua. Nicaragua's Defense Ministry reported that on August 17 a Honduran warplane and helicopter violated the Nicaraguan airspace over Rosa Redonda and Jalapa districts which are subjected to constant raids of Somozist counterrevolutionary gangs.

The Honduran ruling circles are increasingly involved in the criminal plans of the U.S. Administration aimed at liquidating the gains of the Sandinist people's revolution. Tension persists on Nicaragua's northern border of late because of the provocative actions of the Honduran military. Its units fire on the positions of the Sandinist Army and civilian targets. Violations of Nicaragua's sea and air space became more frequent of late.

SOVIET-CHILE SOLIDARITY GROUP SUPPORTS STRUGGLE

LD151632 Moscow TASS in English 1351 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS -- The Soviet Committee of Solidarity with Chilean Democrats has issued a statement in connection with large-scale popular actions in Chile on August 11-12 against the Pinochet regime within the framework of the fourth in the recent months day of national protest against the anti-people dictatorship's policy.

The Soviet-Chile Solidarity Committee expressed its support for the broadening struggle of the Chilean people and demanded on behalf of the Soviet public an immediate release of the arrested participants in the anti-dictatorship actions, an end to the repressions in Chile, and restoration of democratic rights and liberties of the Chilean people.

TRANSPORT CONSTRUCTION MINISTER SOSNOV INTERVIEW

OW171229 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian at 0345 GMT on 14 August carries the 30-minute "Today Is Construction Worker's Day" program. The program begins with a montage of video shots, showing construction projects and general views of apartment complexes in Brezhnev City, Tashkent, and Navoi. Black and white footage of film, showing housing in the USSR in 1922, is followed by diagrams depicting plans for future housing compiled in the 1920's. Film of ravaged Stalingrad is followed by shots of the city 10 years after the war and shots of Minsk. The narrator recalls the destruction and cites figures showing the vast numbers of people left homeless by the war.

Video cuts to a studio and shows commentator Yuriy Mironov talking with Ivan Dmitriyevich Sosnov, USSR Minister of Transport Construction. Mironov begins his interview by asking Sosnov about the years he has spent in the construction industry. Sosnov reports that he was born into the family of a boilermaker, and after school worked at a plant in Tikhoretsk. After graduating from a technical school, he worked as a foreman and work superintendent in the construction industry for 2 years. He then attended the Leningrad Institute of Railroad Transportation and graduated in 1933. Since then, he has "worked continuously in the railraod construction system." He worked for the Ministry of Railways and was chief of the Main Administration for Railroad Construction in the Urals and Siberia, when the Ministry of Transport Construction was established in 1954. The main administration was transferred to the new ministry and he remained in his capacity as chief until 1957. Consequently, he was chief of the administration when the Abakan-Tayshet Railroad was built.

During the war, Sosnov was deputy chief of the railroads and then chief of the Military Repair Directorate, at first on the Ryazan-Ural Railroad and later on the Kalinin Railroad.

Talking about the scale of construction work in the Soviet Union, Sosnov notes that the scale can be visualized by the fact that, on the average, 1 large enterprise and 5,600 apartments are commissioned in the country daily. Discussing the results of his ministry, he says that, during the past 2 and 1/2 years, the plan for the volume of construction and installation work and for commissioning of projects has been overfulfilled. He adds that this work is being carried out over the entire territory of the USSR, even in Kamchatka. "I should say," he notes, "that we have fulfilled the half-year plan well. We have fulfilled it both in the volume of construction and installation work, and in the plan for all transport ministries, with the exception of the [RSFSR Ministry of the] River Fleet. Although we did 20 percent more for the River Fleet than last year, nevertheless we somewhat failed to fulfill this plan. We also fulfilled all tasks for the commissioning of capacities in the first 6 months."

Turning to the construction of the Baykal-Amur Main Railroad, Sosnov says that "a detachment of almost 100,000 construction workers" has been formed on the BAM, which is successfully fulfilling set tasks. He says that "since the beginning of construction, 82 percent of the earthmoving work has been completed on the line, 3,400 artificial structures have been built, including 1,540 large and medium-sized bridges. Nearly 80 percent of the main track has been laid, and about 60-62 percent of the tunneling work has been carried out."

Commentator Mironov then asks: "What is your opinion of the proposal of Aganbegyan, the academician who works on the complex program for Siberia, who said that, insofar as the construction workers of the BAM are being released as organized and cohesive groups, maybe it makes sense to transfer them to West Siberia, where the question of transport construction is the number one problem.

Transport construction is being carried out there, but ought it to be accelerated?" Sosnov replies: "I, for instance, do not support the proposal. I consider that there is no need for this." He adds that, "First of all, there is still a lot of work on the BAM. We will continue to work on it, even though he will be open to traffic, throughout the 12th 5-year plan period. As far as the question of development of West Siberia is concerned, we are already annually carrying out R600 million worth of construction and installation work there. In other words, we are doing as much there as we are doing on the BAM."

Sosnov notes that the areas where oil and gas deposits are being developed in West Siberia are nothing but swamps and bogs, and the task is to provide the region with a transport network to promote the most rapid development of oil and gas. "I should say that we began organizing there in about 1967, but little money was allocated, because extraction at the time was small. However, since then, we have laid more than 1,500 kilometers of main railroad track, which is already in use, as well as several hundred kilometers of sidings to enterprises of the gas and petroleum industry. We have built more than 3,000 kilometers of hard-surface motor road, several airports and runways, as well as moorings in the Ob River, in Surgot, Tobolsk, Nizhnevartovsk, and (Bytnanga)." He adds that nearly 200 million cubic meters of sand have already been poured into the foundations of settlements and drilling rigs in the area.

This year, Sosnov continues, the Surgut-Kholmogorsk line, 700 kilometers of hard-surface roads, and mornings in the river ports at Nadym, Urengoy and Sergino will be commissioned. "Hence, to take a collective from the BAM and transfer it to West Siberia, there is no need for this, because the tasks we are being set, we are fulfilling."

Mironov then asks Sosnov whether he sees any improvement in the construction industry in which "the entire Soviet people expect the most serious and cardinal changes." Mironov adds that the problem of capital construction was discussed at the November CPSU Central Committee Plenum, at which "Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov said that rectification of the situation in capital construction is one of the major national economic tasks." Sosnov says that there have been positive changes and notes "this year, even compared to last year, and particularly compared to last year, the discipline of deliveries has improved. This is very important in construction, for if you fail to give a builder a nail, he will not be able to drive it, regardless of his desire to do so." He adds that, last year, the Ferrous Metallurgy Ministry failed to deliver about 20 percent of the metal allocation, whereas during the first half of this year, the deliveries were fulfilled. The cement delivery plan was underfulfilled a little, he says, and things are bad with timber, "but we are already accustomed to this," he laughs.

Sosnov goes on to talk about the performance of his ministry in the past 10 years, noting that not all trusts under the ministry are fulfilling their plans and the total plan fulfillment is possible only through the efforts of excelling trusts. The ministry is not fulfilling its plan for increasing labor productivity, for profits, or for reducing prime production costs, he says, and adds that idle time is still extremely long at construction projects, as is the labor turnover.

"A few days ago, a resolution of the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU was adopted on strengthening socialist discipline, and it completely concerns our organizations. Although we are fulfilling plans, it completly concerns our organization and we will have to work very seriously at all levels in order to rectify the existing shortcomings. And, of course, this is very important for both raising the efficiency of labor and for increasing labor productivity. I can cite one figure: In 1982, we lost nearly 850,000 man-days due to absenteeism, complete shift and intrashift idle time, and administration-approved vacations.

Now what does this mean? This means that 4,000 of our workers were off the job daily." He adds that, "if we could manage to cut this only by half this number, in other words to bring it down to a conditional 2,000 for instance, we would have fulfilled the 1982 plan for labor productivity.

Sosnov notes that construction workers have accepted Andropov's remarks on problems in capital construction in a positive way, and regard them as instructions for eliminating existing shortcomings. In conclusion, he greets construction workers on the occasion of their professional holiday.

PRAVDA LINKS DISCIPLINE, PRODUCTION LEVEL

PM181422 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 83 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Production Rates Must Be Faster"]

[Text] The all-around consolidation of discipline, organization, and order in all spheres is a very important condition for the successful fulfillment of the plans for the country's economic and social development and the improvement of the people's welfare. Addressing a meeting at the CPSU Central Committee with party veterans, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov noted that the crux of socialist discipline lies in each person giving his all at his work place. Much here depends on well organized ideological and political educational work. And this work must unfailingly be based on modern labor organization, the sensible placement of people, efficient material and technical supplies, and the improvement of moral and material incentives.

Since the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums, workers, specialists, and employees of all leading sectors of the economy have markedly enhanced their labor and political activeness. This is having a positive effect on social production growth rates. In the first 7 months of the year there was an improvement in the indicators for the development of the national economy and for a number of them, the plan targets were overfulfilled. The total volume of industrial production rose 3.8 percent by comparison with the same period last year. That is more than planned. Labor productivity rose 3.1 percent. The prime cost and materials-intensiveness of output dropped and profits increased.

Key sectors like the gas industry, machine building, and instrument making are developing steadily, at preferential rates. The ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy enterprises are working better than last year. Constant concern for the consolidation of production, labor, and state discipline and the introduction of strict order in production are helping many collectives to fulfill the plans not only for the volume of sales but also for the full range of output produced in complete accordance with orders and contracts. An example here is set by the Moscow Krasnyy Proletariy Machine Tool Building Association, Leningrad's Svetlana and LOMO Associations, the Rybinsk Motor Building Association, the Novopolotsk Polimir Association, and others.

The leading workers' successes are largely linked with the fact that the consolidation of planning discipline is viewed in these collectives not as a short-term campaign but as an essential condition for the precise organization of production. Where matters are approached in a sporadic manner and people are engrossed, not in practical work, but in talk of consolidating discipline, the quality of labor does not improve, and plans are not completely fulfilled.

In recent months labor productivity growth rates have slowed down at several enterprises producing coal. Many enterprises of the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry are disrupting the fulfillment of consumers' orders.

The main reason is that the leaders of these enterprises and associations have failed to organize proper control over the course of production and have slackened the demands made on specialists in the supply and sales services for the consolidation of planning discipline.

Not all ministries are fulfilling precisely the role invested in them as headquarters for the leadership of the sector. The USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification has delayed the commissioning of a number of large-scale power units at AES's and TET's. The work of the construction trusts in the sector has been organized in such a way that it has been planned to commission over four-fifths of all power capacities in the second half of the year. Hence the spurts of rushed work and the subsequent poor quality of work. The ministry has been called on to set up more rhythmical work in its collectives.

It is important now in all sectors to seek opportunities for accelerating production tempo. For this the best experience must be adopted, and laggards must be helped promptly. Here this aid must consist not in rectifying plans by lowering targets to which some economic leaders obviously hope to resort but in setting up the rhythmical organization of production and labor, retooling shops in a planned manner, and improving the management of enterprises. The main thing is not to restrict oneself to noting shortcomings and omissions but to ascertain the specific people to blame for blunders and to make appropraite demands on them.

The labor collective is strong by virtue of its organization, cohesion, and discipline. The USSR law which has come into force gives the collective the right to influence still more the work of each person, to encourage conscientious, enterprising workers, and at the same time to sanction strictly the negligent workers -- the absentees, drunkards, and slipshod workers -- as required by the recently adopted CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and AUCCTU Resolution "On Stepping up Work on the Consolidation of Socialist Labor Discipline."

Soviet people welcome with great satisfaction the party and government steps aimed at consolidating discipline and are responding with a further increase in their organization in work. Concern for the success of the common cause dictated the new initiative of the working people of leading Moscow enterprises -- the S. Ordzhonikidze Machine Tool Building Plant, the Krasnaya Roza Silk Combine, the No 1 Truck Combine, and a number of others. The goal of this initiative is to increase labor productivity by 1-2 percent over and above the plan in the remaining months of this year. There is no doubt that the patriotic initiative will be supported not only by the capital's enterprises but also by all the country's plans and factories. This will make it possible to promote thousands more labor collectives to the ranks of the best and to achieve a further acceleration of production rates.

The consolidation of discipline requires stricter monitoring of the work of economic leaders by ministry, department party committees, and local party organizations. The study and broad use of the experience of the best, practical support for initiatives aimed at improving qualitative indicators and fulfilling targets for the full range of items; the assessment of people's contribution according to the growth of end results, not intermediate ones; the development of comprehensive competition encompassing all subcontracting plants -- those are the main avenues of organizational and educational work. A high degree of organization and order in all our economic affairs and strong planning discipline are decisive conditions for the successful fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and the plan targets for this year and the entire 11th 5-Year Plan.

JAN-JUN FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED

PM181215 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 33, Aug 83 (Signed to Press 8 Aug 83) p 21

[Review by N. Tretyukhin, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Trade Ministry Economic Planning Main Administration: "USSR's Foreign Trade; Survey for January-June 1983"]

[Text] The results of foreign trade for January through June this year show that the plans set for 1983 for the export and import of goods are being fulfilled successfully as a whole. In the first half of 1983 the USSR's foreign trade turnover in current prices increased 6.8 percent by comparison with the same period last year, reaching R64.4 billion. Exports rose 9.7 percent and imports 3.9 percent, totaling R32.8 and R31.6 billion respectively. The growth of foreign trade took place mainly through the expansion of its physical volume. It is well known that on the world market over this time a reduction in the level of prices for many commodities, and above all for fuel and energy commodities which form the largest proportion of our exports.

The USSR now trades with 143 countries. In the period under review, as before, the biggest proportion of the Soviet Union's foreign trade turnover was with the socialist countries -- 56.1 percent -- and of this figure 51.7 percent was accounted for by the CEMA countries; the share of the industrially developed countries amounted to 30.3 percent, and that of the developing countries, 13.6 percent.

Broken down into groups of countries, the volume of the USSR's foreign trade was distributed as follows (in billions of rubles):

	January - June		
	1982	1983	1983 as Percentage of 1982
In all:			
Turnover	60.3	64.4	106.8
Exports	29.9	32.8	109.7
Imports	30.4	31.6	103.9
Socialist Countries:			
Turnover	32.8	36.2	110.4
Exports	16.5	18.8	113.9
Imports	16.3	17.4	106.7
CEMA Countries:			
Turnover	29.8	33.3	111.7
Exports	15.2	17.3	113.8
Imports	14.6	16.0	109.5

Industrially Developed Capitalist Countries:			
Turnover	19.6	19.5	99.5
Exports	9.1	9.0	98.9
Imports	10.5	10.5	100.00
Developing Countries:			
Turnover	7.9	8.7	110.1
Exports	4.4	5.0	113.6
Imports	3.5	3.7	105.7

The biggest increase in trade turnover was achieved with the CEMA countries -- 117 percent. The Soviet Union focuses attention in its trade and economic relations with these countries; on the implementation of a vast complex of economic integration measures; and the concentration of efforts on new salients of scientific and technical cooperation, including the creation of equipment which saves power, materials, and manpower; and means of automation based on the latest scientific achievements. As the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum noted, life requires not simply the expansion of cooperation with these countries but also an improvement in its quality and effectiveness. In this connection Yu. V. Andropov stressed in his speech at the plenum that the Soviet Union is seeking "a qualitatively new level of economic integration. Without it, it is already impossible to imagine the socialist community countries' lives. In the long term, integration will become increasing profound, all-encompassing, and effective, reliably ensuring the consolidation of the national economies of the member-countries. Our joint efforts are aimed at this."

In the past 6 months active work has continued on the implementation of existing agreements on cooperation between the USSR and the CEMA countries in constructing industrial installations on the USSR's territory, in particular the Mozyr Plant for the production of nutrient yeast, the Khmelnitskiy and South Ukrainian AES's, and gas industry establishments. In turn the USSR has taken part in constructing industrial enterprises, nuclear power stations, and other national economic projects in a number of CEMA countries.

Cooperation with the CEMA countries in the agroindustrial field was further developed. This cooperation is being increasingly moved to the path of production sharing and specialization. The socialist countries have supplied the USSR with various agricultural equipment, chemical plant protection agents, manufacturing equipment for the food industries, fishing vessels, and refrigeration and storage equipment. In turn, the USSR has sent the fraternal countries machinery and equipment designed for agroindustrial production and mineral fertilizers.

As a whole the Soviet Union delivered goods to the CEMA countries in the first 6 months in a volume equal to 52.5 percent of all exports that period and received from them half of all its imports.

In the first 6 months of this year the volume of the USSR's trade with each of the CEMA countries was characterized by the following figures (in millions of rubles):

	January-June 1982	January-June 1983	1983 as a Percentage of 1982
Bulgaria:			
Turnover	4,631.5	5,452.9	117.7
Exports	2,373.0	2,880.3	121.4
Imports	2,258.5	2,572.6	113.9
Hungary:			
Turnover	3,584.3	3,847.7	107.3
Exports	1,790.7	1,961.4	109.5
Imports	1,793.6	1,886.3	105.2
Vietnam:			
Turnover	483.6	595.7	123.2
Exports	397.1	491.1	123.7
Imports	86.5	104.6	121.0
GDR:			
Turnover	5,994.8	6,549.3	109.2
Exports	3,093.3	3,321.4	107.4
Imports	2,901.5	3,227.9	111.2
Cuba:			
Turnover	3,753.7	3,915.1	104.3
Exports	1,547.0	1,768.7	114.3
Imports	2,206.7	2,146.4	97.3
Mongolia:			
Turnover	597.7	652.6	109.2
Exports	486.2	522.0	107.4
Imports	111.5	130.6	117.1

Poland:			
Turnover	4,242.7	4,976.8	117.3
Exports	2,362.9	2,595.2	109.8
Imports	1,879.8	2,381.6	126.7
Romania:			
Turnover	1,580.3	1,741.0	110.2
Exports	659.6	849.1	128.7
Imports	920.7	891.9	96.9
Czechoslovakia:			
Turnover	4,950.6	5,620.9	113.5
Exports	2,459.9	2,855.2	116.1
Imports	2,490.7	2,765.7	111.0

Of the other socialist countries, the USSR's biggest volume of trade is with Yugoslavia. However, in the first 6 months it dropped somewhat -- by 4.7 percent -- totaling R2,403.9 million. Trade turnover with the DPRK was R290.5 million. Trade turnover with China rose to R111.9 million.

Trade and economic relations with the industrially developed capitalist countries were implemented under complex trade and economic conditions. Adverse influence on their overall state was exerted by factors like the deterioration of the international situation, the continuing economic crisis in the capitalist economy, mounting protectionism, and discriminatory actions undertaken by the Western countries in trade with the USSR. Aggressive forces in the West and above all in the United States are now directing their attacks increasingly actively toward undermining normal relations with the socialist countries. For their part, as the joint statement of leading party and state figures of seven socialist countries in Moscow 28 June this year pointed out, "there are more frequent attempts at interfering in the internal affairs of the socialist states and many other states, mutually advantageous economic ties are being disrupted, hostile campaigns are being mounted against the socialist countries, and other methods of pressure are being used."

Under these conditions the Soviet state, loyal to Lenin's policy of peaceful coexistence, is continuing to follow a course aimed at developing steady mutually advantageous economic relations with those Western countries which display an interest in doing so. This can be seen from the fact that in the first half of this year trade with individual industrially developed capitalist countries continued to expand although as a whole trade turnover with this group of countries in fact remained at the level of the first 6 months of last year. For instance, trade turnover with Italy rose 14.6 percent, totaling R2,238.9 million, it rose 11.4 percent with France (R2,112.4 million), 29.9 percent with the Netherlands (R1,209.7 million), 13.2 percent with Britain (R871.1 million), and 1.9 percent with Finland (R2,514.1 million).

There was also an increase in trade with Austria, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, and Canada.

The volume of trade with the FRG fell somewhat -- by 0.9 percent -- but it remained the biggest (R3,360.1 million) among all the USSR's Western trading partners. A considerable reduction took place in trade with the United States, with which trade turnover fell by 42.2 percent (to R1,010.1 million), and with Japan -- by 15.4 percent (to R1,625.5 million).

Depending on the demand from each for a particular commodity, petroleum, petroleum products, gas, pig iron, ferro-alloys, scrap ferrous metal, chrome ore, various chemical products including mineral fertilizers, chipboard, commercial timber, plywood, pulp, paper, cotton, furs, metal cutting machine tools, forge and pressing equipment, automobiles, tractors, bearings, and many other commodities were exported to the industrially developed capitalist countries.

Various types of equipment were imported from these countries for the chemical, petrochemical, petroleum refining, metal working, pulp and paper, and textile industries, as were large-diameter pipes and equipment for main gas pipelines, including the Urengoy-Pomory-Uzhgorod export gas pipeline, and several types of raw material commodities and consumer goods.

The USSR's trade and economic relations are consistently expanding with the developing countries. In the past 6 months the volume of trade turnover with them totaled R8.7 billion as against R7.9 billion in the same period of 1982.

India remains the USSR's biggest trading partner among the developing countries. Trade turnover with it in the first 6 months of 1983 reached R1,207.9 million. In the 6 months it rose 6 percent by comparison with the same period last year. Trade also increased with Argentina, Brazil, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.

As far as it is able the Soviet Union is continuing to help many developing countries in their economic development. Metallurgical plants, power stations, and other establishments are being constructed in a number of these countries with the assistance of Soviet organizations.

The USSR has supplied the developing countries with industrial equipment, including in kit form, chemical goods, cement, paper, textiles, medical supplies, cultural and consumer goods, and other output.

Both traditional exports (mainly raw material and agricultural products) and some of the output produced by industrial enterprises constructed with the USSR's assistance have been imported from the developing countries.

The results of foreign trade in the first 6 months give grounds for believing that the tasks set it for 1983 will be completely fulfilled.

PROGRESS OF HARVESTING, SOWING WORK REVIEWED

Support Sector Criticized

PM181442 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Aug 83 p 2

[Yu. Grachev report: "Improving Delivery Discipline: From an All-Union Operational Staff Session"]

[Text] At the present time field workers have no more important concern than to gather the harvest as rapidly as possible. And here the collectives of industrial enterprises which supply kolkhozes and sovkhozes with machines, spare parts, fuel, metal, industrial rubber goods, chemical products, and other resources are called on to make their mark.

A routine session of the all-union operational staff for Material and Technical Supply for Agriculture, which was opened by L.I. Khitrun, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture, noted that the situation regarding the fulfillment by industry of orders for the countryside has considerably improved in comparison with last year throughout the country as a whole. However, this year is particularly complex for farmers. The harvesting requires much greater exertion of effort on the part of all components in the agro-industrial complex.

Grain growers are now experiencing considerable difficulties because of the unsatisfactory work of individual moter transport collectives engaged in transporting grain. Frequent machinery breakdowns and stoppages are often permitted because of shortage or absence of the necessary spare parts. And it is no wonder, for during the first 7 months of this year the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry Plants have, for instance, undersupplied the countryside with a considerable quantity of very important parts. Thus, the Michurinsk Motordetal Production Association undersupplied tens of thousands of sets of piston rings for GAZ-53, ZIL-130, GAZ-24, MAZ, and KRAZ motor vehicles and K-700 tractors during this period. Among the countryside's debtors are the Gorkiy GAZ Production Association, the Sinelnikovo Springs Plant, and the Yaroslavl Avtodizel Production Association. These collectives have already been criticized at previous all-union staff sessions. The session's participants requested that the debtors eliminate the lag in supplies to the countryside of the necessary material and technical means in the near future.

A number of enterprises of the Ministry of Tractor of Agricultural Machine Building, which are not coping with orders for agriculture, were seriously criticized. The Altay Motor Plant, the Kharkov Tractor Engine Plant, Sibselmash, the Tula Combine Enterprise, and other certain enterprises are failing to supply spare parts. Deliveries to the countryside of industrial rubber goods are unsatisfactory. The Barnaul, Krasnoyarsk, Leningrad, and Volzhskiy Industrial Rubber Goods Plants and also a number of other enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Petroleum Refining and the Petrochemical Industry have undersupplied farms with a large quantity of v-belts and fanbelts, chassis gaskets, bearings, and other parts necessary for the normal operation of harvesting equipment.

Individual enterprises of the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production are violating delivery discipline. Because of this rural workers are experiencing an acute shortage of certain parts for mowing machines, feed-harvesting combines, assemblies for preparing vitamin meal, milking units, and feed shops. The Lyubertsy Zavod imeni Ukhtomskogo Production Association, the Gomselmash Production Association, the Chelno-Vershinskiy (Kuybyshev Oblast) Machine Plant, and other enterprises are cited among the debtors.

The session also examined other questions connected with ensuring that the harvest was gathered in. The Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the USSR State Committee for the supply of Petroleum Products, and other departments were criticized particularly.

Taking part in the staff's work were responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR People's Control Committee, the USSR Gosplan, and representatives of ministries and departments.

IZVESTIYA Report

PM181516 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 1

[V. Gavrichkin "Agricultural review": "Harvesting as Well as Sowing"]

[Text] This is a time of intensive work for the country's farmers -- August has sharply increased the scope of field work, while the favorable weather which prevails in most parts of the country has made it possible to step up the work pace. Over the past week alone, for instance, grain has been threshed on 11.4 million hectares, which is considerably more than during the preceding week. In all, since the beginning of the harvest grain crops have been cut on 62.5 million hectares, and threshed on 57 million hectares.

Harvest work is now underway almost everywhere. Machine operators in many parts of Belorussia, Lithuania, Lipetsk, and Volgograd Oblasts are removing the combines from the fields, and Orel, Tula, Ryazan, Tambov, and Kaliningrad grain growers have threshed the grain on 80 percent and more of the area. But, the harvest is only just beginning in West Siberia and Kazakhstan: Harvesting and transport links there have started selective harvesting of peas, barley, and wheat. The farmers in the virgin land regions have prepared themselves for the harvest quite well. Stress has been laid on efficient utilization of machinery. In the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan alone -- the republic's main grain growing region where grain crops take up 15.5 million hectares -- 4,500 and more harvesting and transport units and detachments will take part in harvest work. On many combines, as well as the driver, there are assistants, which has made it possible to organize work in shifts. The careful preparations for the harvest have produced good results from the very beginning of the harvest effort: For instance, the average daily area harvested per combine already exceeds 10 hectares in the republic.

The pace of field work is very high in Tataria and in Ulyanovsk Oblast where approximately one-third of the cereals were threshed during the past week. Farmers in the Mari, Chuvash, and Udmurt ASSR's are working in organized fashion. Bashkir grain growers have scored a great labor victory by delivering the first million metric tons of grain to state granaries, our correspondent A. Zinovyev reports. Around 100,000 metric tons of grain are being delivered to elevators daily at present -- this rate of procurement is unprecedented in the republic. Bashkir farmers intend to complete the harvest by 1 September and to give the motherland 3 million metric tons of grain.

At the same time less then one-third of the grain crop sowings have been harvested on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Kalinin, Yaroslavl and Kirov Oblasts.

Kazakhstan's example shows that the path to success leads through highly efficient utilization of machinery. But in many of the RSFSR's oblasts the average output per combine is lower than during the corresponding period last year -- and this cannot but cause alarm. Work is being held up by poor supplies of fuel and lubricants. On a number of farms their reserves do not exceed the requirement for half a shift.

In August, harvesting time has arrived not only in the grain fields. In the Ukraine, on the farms of the Central Chernozem Zone, and in the south of the country's central region the harvest of such valuable food crops as buckwheat and millet is underways.

During the past week the flow of grain to elevators and grain reception centers has increased. More strong and valuable wheats, winter rye, millet, buckwheat, brewing barley, and pulses than last year have been procured.

At present tractors pulling seeders can be seen in the fields in many parts of the country at the same time as grain harvesting combines. The time has come to sow winter crops. In regions where the optimum sowing periods have already started, 1 million hectares more plowland than last year has been prepared. In all, 28.1 million hectares of land -- 70 percent of the plan, that is -- are ready to receive the winter crop seeds. Machine operators in Lipetsk, Orenburg, Kemerovo, and Omsk Oblasts have completed plowing. On farms in Pskov, Yroslavl, and Kalinin Oblasts, on the other hand, this work is lagging.

Quality seeds have been laid in everywhere in preparation for the winter crop sowing. Grain growers in the Ukraine, in particular, took special care as regards this. In the past few years they have received quite a number of promising varieties from seed breeders. Short-stem wheats are confidently gaining ground in the fields there. Particularly varieties such as the Odessa Semidwarf [Odesskaya Polukarlikovaya] are distinguished by high yields, resistance to unfavorable conditions, and excellent quality of the grain. In 3 years it has gained "entry" on hundreds of thousands of hectares. In all, new grain varieties will take up one-fourth of winter crop sowings in the Ukraine. Practically every farm in the republic can now choose the two or three varieties most suited to local conditions. And this is the most important guarantee of increased output and improved quality of grain.

August is not yet the fall, but it is the August day that fills the food stores for the year. For this reason farmers are making every effort to gather in swiftly and without losses everything that has been grown in the fields and to lay reliable foundations for next year's harvest.

'SLOW' DEVELOPMENT OF SEED-GROWING SECTOR HIT

PM181039 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Good Seeds -- Good Harvest"]

[Excerpts] Seeds of winter crops .... Grain growers are talking about them now primarily because August always brings together in the country's big field the harvest and concern for fall sowing. It has already begun in Siberia and the Urals, in the Volga-Vyatka region and the north of the central region, and in the Northwest Region and Tataria. Then the sowing campaign will be joined by farms in the Volga Region, the Baltic republics, Belorussia, the Ukrainian Polesye ...

By Monday, 8 August, 24.6 million hectares of arable land had already been prepared for winter crops. This is 6 million hectares more than last year. More seeds have also been cleaned, dried, and treated than by the same date in 1982: 6.2 million metric tons, which is 66 percent of the requirment.

This work has been coped with successfully in the Ukraine, Georgia, Kirghizia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

In the RSFSR alone more than 200 scientific establishments and training farms of agricultural institutes and technical colleges are engaged in growing elite seeds of grain crops.

They produce more than 400,000 metric tons of elite and primary seeds per year for the purpose of strain changing: quite enough to meet the need of kolkhozes and sovkhozes for seeds of high reproduction.

The experience accumulated in the Latvian SSR's Talsinkiy Rayon is interesting in this respect. There the Lenin Kolkhoz receives initial stock from the Stende Experimental Station and specializes in seed growing. A large-capacity grain-cleaning and drying base has been created on the farm by decision of the Talsinkiy Rayon Agro-industrial Association Council. The kolkhoz delivers fully prepared seeds exactly on schedule directly to the sowing units of the farms it serves.

The "seed bank" produces seeds for the whole neighborhood, while the neighbors grow commodity grain for the Lenin Kolkhoz. In practice this means that the surrounding farms do not need agronomists, seed growers, grain-cleaning equipment, dressing centers, storehouses.... They do not even have threshing floors. The entire harvest is transported straight from the field to the partners in the rayon agro-industrial association for the elevator and for processing into mixed feed.

This way of organizing things merits the broadest dissemination. The task consists in seeing that proper measures are taken in every oblast, kray, and republic to ensure the full preservation of the valuable seeds of both winter and spring crops. This applies particularly to promising strains and those in short supply, every quintal of which must be used primarily on seed-growing farms.

Until recently, however, the "golden fund" from which our grain emanates was not being disbursed thriftily in many places, and sowings were crowded in as though they were ordinary truck farming plots. As a result the plants lodged and produced puny grain with low germination and low seed yield. This must not allow to continue, for not only is "bulk" important in seed growing but also a high reproduction coefficient and the biological qualities of the grain. It is not for nothing that people still say today: "Don't expect good breed from bad seed."

The CPSU Central Committee May (1982) Plenum decisions spur scientific establishments to devote more attention to the accelerated reproduction and introduction of new strains into production. Local Soviet and economic organs should adopt experience of the efficient dissemination of strains such as the "Culpan" winter rye and the "Mironovskaya-35," "Novosibirskaya-67," and "Sibiryachka-4" spring wheats.

Just 2 years after state tests and zoning, the "Chulpan" winter rye, which was created at the Bashkir Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture, occupies hundreds of thousands of hectares. Grain growers in 15 RSFSR oblasts at once took it into their fields, and it was acknowledged to be promising in 12 oblasts of Russia and other republics. On experimental farms near Penza this summer the "Chulpan" rye has produced 60 and more quintals of grain per hectare with outstanding baking qualities.

However, new seeds are not always disseminated at a high rate. Because of a weak seed-growing base certain scientific establishments do not fulfill their pledges for elite seed production -- which holds up the growth of yields.

Serious concern is aroused today by laggardness in producing seeds of winter crops in the Kalinin, Yaroslavl, Kostroma, and Korov Oblasts of the RSFSR Nonchernozem Zone. This work must be accelerated there, for the optimum sowing times are already arriving, and being late means going into winter with weak shoots and facing the threat of their being killed by frost and having to be resown in the winter.

The process of getting many scientific establishments' experimental production farms to specialize in seed growing is a slow one at the Krasnodar, Don, and Siberian Agricultural Scientific Research Institutes; the Agricultural Scientific Research Institute of the central regions of the Non-Chernozem Zone; and also the Northwest Agricultural Scientific Research Institute. They are saddled with an excess of targets for sales of commodity grain and feed.

Laggardness in the production of seeds of feed, wheats, rye, and triticale and in seed growing for a number of pulse and groat crops, beets, and perennial grasses still has not been overcome. None of these crops can be called secondary. They are all needed to implement the Food Program.

PRAVDA REVIEWS HAYMAKING, FEED PROCUREMENT

PM181120 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 83 First Edition p 2

[S. Yevgenyev "Agricultural Review": "Haymaking Continues"]

[Text] Summer passes quickly. The harvest has dealt with the ripe ears in the south and is still advancing. Farms in the Non-Chernozem, the Altay, and Kazakhstan's virgin land regions have joined in. According to the USSR Central Statistical Administration [CSA], by 15 August grain and pulse crops (excluding corn) had been cut over 62.5 million hectares on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. That is 55 percent of the area allocated. The harvesting of vegetables, potatoes, fruit, grapes, and melons is underway. Feed procurement continues.

This summer has been generous with grasses. Many farms in, for instance, Belorussia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Kaliningrad, Bryansk, and Amur Oblasts were able virtually to fully meet the livestock units' hay requirements with the first cut. In all, according to the USSR CSA on the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes sown and natural grasses have been cut over an area of 72.2 million hectares. Some 62.7 million metric tons of hay, 60.5 million metric tons of haylage, and 5.6 million metric tons of artificially dehydrated feed have been procured. This is considerably more than by the same time last year.

Harmonious work in the meadows and fields is promoted by the creation of specialized feed procurement subunits, the rational organization of production, and the wide introduction of autonomous financing. With the transition to the nonregulated system of labor remuneration, the working people of Privolzhskiy Rayon in Kuybyshev Oblast are laying in feed twice as quickly as in previous years. They intend to create a stock of 1 and 1/2 years' feed for every livestock unit this year. Many farms have already overfulfilled hay and haylage procurement targets.

Stockmen and feed procurement workers are working to a single schedule on the Rossiya kolkhoz in Donetsk Oblast's Volnovakhskiy Rayon. The farm's collective has laid in more than 3,000 tons of hay for the winter. That is three annual plans.

Many farms cut the grass in good time and top-dressed the fields, and are now harvesting repeat crops of green stuff. In the south of the country, in Surkhan-Darya Oblast, for instance, the machine operators have taken the mowers into the alfalfa fields for the fourth time. Here many farms are counting on obtaining one or two extra cutting of grasses and harvesting 200-250 quintals of hay per hectare. This is a good example of how to use the land intensively and obtain a high return on resources invested.

Unfortunately in some places people have not yet set about the first cutting of grasses. A significant proportion of the meadows remain untouched by the mowers, for instance, in Kabardino-Balkaria, Maritime Kray, and Chita and Kemerovo Oblasts. Yet there is enough machinery there.

What is lacking is organization and the ability to allocate facilities and resources correctly. The available material base offered the opportunity to complete the haymaking in 2-3 weeks at most. Yet 1 and 1/2-2 months have elapsed, and the end of the green harvest is not in sight. Kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders and specialists and local party and agricultural organs know very well that only plentiful feed of their own makes it possible to develop livestock raising on a sound basis and seek high efficiency. There is no other way.

In the past week the rate of work in the meadows has slackened and grasses have been cut over half a million hectares less than in the previous 7 days. The haymaking must not be delayed. Omissions in this important matter have already meant that many farms have lost second cuts. And where there has been time for regrowth, a practical approach to harvesting it does not always exist.

Harvesting all the feed is still, as they say, only half the job. Its high quality must be ensured. A significant number of farms are laying in feed with low nutritional properties. There is much feed of this kind on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Moldavia, Udmurtia, and Kostroma and Yaroslavl Oblasts. In the winter these omissions could result in a shortfall in output.

The country's farms have to lay in about 248 million tons of silage. The volume of work is large, but feasible, if you bear in mind that last year 246 million tons of this feed were laid in. The main attention must be devoted to silage quality. Last year, for various reasons, 13 percent of it proved to be substandard.

Last season's errors and shortcomings must be avoided. Most farms are taking account of the experience gained and laying in the green stuff rapidly, making wide use of leading methods and chemical preservatives. As a result by mid-August farms had laid in nearly 8 million tons more succulent feed than by the same date last year.

But the main work still lies ahead. And it is very important to carry out this work in good time and obtain a high quality product. The conditions exist. The material and technical base has been prepared rather better than last year. Nearly all the silage harvesting combines on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Ukraine, Bashkiria, Krasnodar Kray, and Chelyabinsk Oblast are in operation. At the same time there are many regions where the repair of silage harvesting machinery has not been hurried. This applies above all to many farms in Turkmenia and Altay Kray. Here about one-fourth of the silage harvesting combines are not ready.

Serious lapses have been allowed to occur in the preparation of capacities for the storage of green stuff. According to the USSR CSA the 6-month plan for building silage and haylage storage facilities from state capital investments was only 29 percent fulfilled. Such capacities are being erected only slowly in Kazakhstan and in Perm and Vladimir Oblasts, where the 6-month program has been only 10-20 percent fulfilled. The construction ministries have repeatedly been criticized in the press for laggardness in commissioning feed storage facilities. But clearly the situation has not yet changed for the better. The departments and organizations concerned should pay more attention to important projects, while agro-industrial association councils should be more exacting as regards the activity of the countryside's partners and ensure that they fulfill the commitments taken on.

A major source of supplements for feed reserves is arable waste. Every year farms procure tens of millions of tons of straw, chaff, corn stalks, and sunflower heads. This is a considerable help for the livestock units and it is very important to use it. This year considerably more straw has been stacked than in last year's season. Nonetheless a thrifty attitude toward straw does not exist everywhere.

Latvia straw has not yet been harvested from nearly half the threshed area. This work is proceeding only slowly in Kalmykia and in Kastroma, Ulyanovsk, and a number of other oblasts.

The summer is drawing to a close. But the farmers still have many worries ahead. It is necessary to complete the harvest, prepare the soil for winter crops, sow them, and do the fall plowing. Nature leaves a minimum of time for all this work. A high level of organization and discipline are required in order to cope with the tasks in good time and prevent losses.

CSA REPORTS BELGOROD OBLAST GRAIN SALES

LD181116 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The USSR CSA has reported that Belgorod Oblast agricultural workers have fulfilled their state grain sales plan: Over 830,000 tonnes of grain -- 417,000 of them wheat -- have been delivered to the country's granaries. The pulse crops sales plan has been underfulfilled. The oblast's farms have provided themselves with seed for next year's harvest. The oblast's collective and state farms are harvesting and selling buckwheat, millet, and other late crops to the state.